

California apologizes for Japanese American internment

By CUNEY DIL
SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California lawmakers on Thursday became the first political leaders in the nation's most populous state to apologize for discriminating against Japanese Americans and helping the U.S. government send them to internment camps after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor during World War II. The Assembly unanimously passed the resolution and welcomed several people

who were imprisoned in the camps and their families. Several lawmakers gave somber statements and gathered at the entrance of the chamber after the vote to hug and shake hands with victims like 96-year-old Kiyo Sato. Sato said young people need to know about the 120,000 Japanese Americans who were sent to internment camps during the war.

Continued on page 3



Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi, D-Torrance, in back, joins Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during World War II after the California Assembly passed House Resolution 77 on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020, in Sacramento.

Associated Press



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In this March 12, 2019 file photo, people pose for photos in front of the iconic Tommy Trojan statue on the campus of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Free USC tuition to students with \$80K or less family income

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The University of Southern California will phase in free tuition for undergraduate students from families with an annual income of \$80,000 or less, USC President Carol L. Folt announced Thursday.

As part of the initiative, ownership of a home will not be counted in determining a student's financial need to attend the Los Angeles private college with

20,500 undergraduates, where tuition and living expenses are above \$77,000 annually.

"We're opening the door wider to make a USC education possible for talented students from all walks of life," Folt said in a statement. The changes will be phased in beginning with first-year students entering USC in the fall of 2020 and the spring of 2021, USC said. □

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Lawmakers target slavery clause in Minnesota Constitution



St. Paul Police Chief Todd Axtell speaks at a news conference with lawmakers at the state Capitol in St. Paul, Minn., on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020, in support of an amendment to to remove a clause allowing slavery and involuntary servitude as punishment for crimes from the state Constitution.

Associated Press

By **STEVE KARNOWSKI**
Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Spurred by a police chief,

Minnesota lawmakers launched a drive Thursday to remove from the state constitution a clause allow-

ing slavery and involuntary servitude as punishment for crimes.

St. Paul Police Chief Todd Axtell, who had been bothered by the language for some time, made it his new year's resolution to get it deleted. He found a sympathetic ear in St. Paul Democratic Rep. John Lesch, who will get a hearing Tuesday on his proposal asking voters in November to remove the offending language from the constitution.

The bill of rights in the 1857 Minnesota Constitution says "there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the state otherwise than as punishment for a crime of which the party has been convicted." □

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"We need to remind them that this can't happen again," she said.

The resolution came a day after Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a Day of Remembrance for Feb. 19, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order in 1942 that led to the imprisonment of Japanese Americans across 10 camps in the U.S. West and Arkansas. The governors of Idaho and Arkansas also proclaimed it a Day of Remembrance, and events are held nationwide.

"During the years leading up to World War II, California led the nation in fanning the flames of racism," said Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi, who was born in Japan.

The resolution said anti-Japanese sentiment began in California as early as 1913, when the state passed the Alien Land Law, targeting Japanese farmers who were perceived as a threat by some in the massive agricultural industry. Seven years later, the

state barred anyone with Japanese ancestry from buying farmland.

"We are specifically apologizing for wrongs that were committed on this floor," Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon said in the chamber. "We are apologizing for what we have done."

Senators will take up a version of the resolution later in the year and send it to the governor to sign. California is providing no financial compensation.

A congressional commission in 1983 concluded that the detentions were a result of "racial prejudice, war hysteria and failure of political leadership." Five years later, the U.S. government formally apologized and paid \$20,000 in reparations to each victim.

Several California lawmakers noted the state's direct role in discriminating against Japanese Americans and carrying out the federal government's order to send residents to internment camps.

Two camps in the mid-1940s were in California:



Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi, D-Torrance, speaks before the passage of HR 77, a resolution he introduced that apologizes for California's role in supporting the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II.

Associated Press

Manzanar on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada and Tule Lake near the Oregon state line, the largest of all the camps.

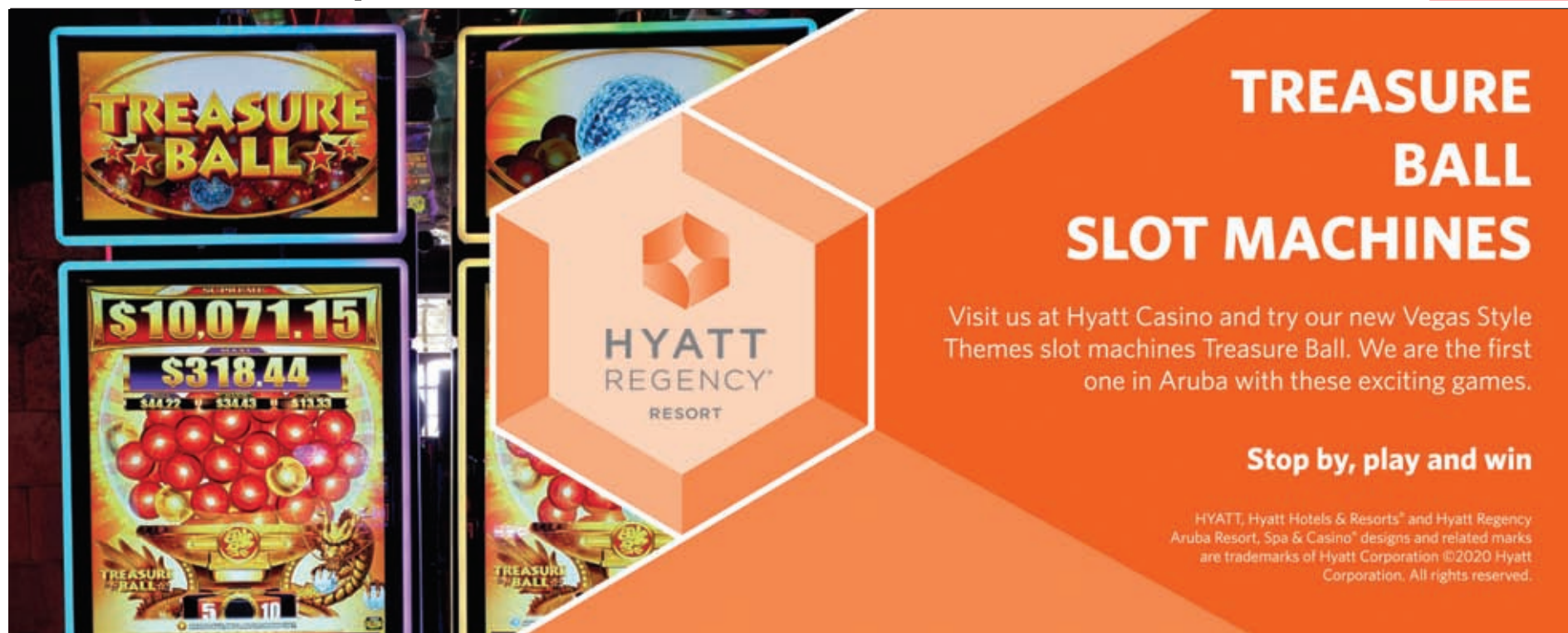
While the Senate didn't vote on the resolution Thursday, Sen. Richard Pan introduced two sons of Norman Yoshio Mineta, the first Asian American to serve in

a presidential cabinet under George W. Bush.

Mineta was imprisoned in a camp before becoming "one of the most influential Asian Americans in the history of our nation," Pan said, including leading a congressional effort for the U.S. apology and reparations that passed in 1988

and President Ronald Reagan signed.

Pan wrote the Senate version of the resolution, which he intends to pursue after it clears a committee later this year. California has the largest population of people of Japanese descent of any state, numbering roughly 430,000. □



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Roger Stone arrives for his sentencing at federal court in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020.

Associated Press

Trump ally Roger Stone sentenced to over 3 years in prison

By **ASHRAF KHALIL, MARK SHERMAN and MICHAEL BALSAMO**

Associated Press WASHINGTON (AP) — Roger Stone, a longtime confidant of President Donald Trump, was sentenced to more than three years in prison Thursday for obstructing a congressional investigation in a case that

has sparked fears about presidential interference in the justice system.

Soon after Judge Amy Berman Jackson pronounced sentence, Trump publicly decried Stone's conviction as unfair and prominent Republican legislators were giving tacit support for a pardon. But Trump said he wasn't ready to act just yet. "I want the process to play out. I think that's the best thing to do because I would love to see Roger exonerated," he said. "I'm going to watch the process. I'm going to watch very closely. ... At some point I'll make a determination." The case was marked by the Justice Department's extraordinary about-face on a sentencing recommendation and a very public dispute between Trump and Attorney General William Barr, who said the president was undermining the department's historical independence and making "it impossible for me to do my job."

The president responded by asserting that he was the "chief law enforcement officer of the federal government."

Stone was convicted in November on all seven counts of an indictment that accused him of lying to Congress, tampering with a witness and obstructing the House investigation into whether the Trump cam-

paign coordinated with Russia to tip the 2016 election.

He was the sixth Trump aide or adviser to be convicted on charges brought as part of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into possible Russian interference in the 2016 election.

At sentencing Thursday, Jackson grilled federal prosecutor John Crabb on the department's decision to replace a tough sentencing recommendation for Stone with a more lenient one, which had prompted the original prosecution team to quit the case. Trump had called the original recommendation of seven to nine years a "miscarriage of justice."

Jackson pointedly told Crabb that he might know less about the case than anyone in the room.

Jackson said the evidence clearly showed that Stone testified falsely to Congress and repeatedly pressured a potential witness to either back up his lie or refuse to testify.

Near the end, Jackson's voice rose in anger as she said that Stone's entire defense strategy seemed to amount to "So What?" Stone did not testify and called no witnesses on his behalf.

She sentenced Stone to 40 months in prison, plus two years' probation and a \$20,000 fine. □



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New enforcement operation focuses on meth trafficking hubs

By KATE BRUMBACK

ATLANTA (AP) — Federal authorities are targeting methamphetamine "transportation hubs" around the country in an effort to block the distribution of the highly addictive drug, officials announced Thursday.

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Acting Administrator Uttam Dhillon visited Atlanta to announce the launch of Operation Crystal Shield. Atlanta is one of eight cities the agency has identified as a hub where methamphetamine from Mexico arrives in bulk for distribution around the country.

The other cities are Dallas, El Paso, Houston, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Phoenix and St. Louis. By focusing on those hubs, Dhillon said, they hope to attack the entire supply chain and intercept the drug before it is trafficked to neighborhoods and communities throughout the country.

While much of the focus in recent years has been on synthetic opioids like fentanyl, methamphetamine continues to be a leading cause of death and addiction, Dhillon said.

A 2005 federal law that regulated the retail sale of over-the-counter drugs like pseudoephedrine — which can be used to make methamphetamine — largely eliminated the production of the drug in the U.S., Dhillon said. Now, however, almost all the methamphetamine consumed in the U.S. comes from Mexico,



U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Acting Administrator Uttam Dhillon announced the launch of Operation Crystal Shield at a news conference in Atlanta on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020.

Associated Press

where it's produced on an industrial scale and smuggled across the border, he said.

DEA seizures of methamphetamine in the U.S. increased by 127%, from 49,507 pounds (22,456 kilograms) to 112,146 pounds (50,869 kilograms), between fiscal years 2017 and 2019, and DEA arrests related to the drug rose nearly 20%, the agency said.

Authorities have seen a dramatic spike in the amount of methamphetamine smuggled across the U.S.-Mexico border in recent months.

From October through the end of January, authorities seized about 50,000

pounds (22,680 kilograms) of methamphetamine at U.S.-Mexico border crossings. That's more than was seized for the entire 2017 fiscal year. December was an especially busy month for methamphetamine trafficking, with more than 16,000 pounds (7,257 kilograms) of the drug seized at border crossings, which is nearly as much as was confiscated in all of 2014.

Dhillon and other law enforcement officers spoke at a news conference with piles of methamphetamine from two recent seizures in the Atlanta area laid out in front of them.

Firefighters responding to an apartment fire in Cobb

County found a meth lab. Inside, authorities found boxes of candles that contained methamphetamine and could be cooked down and processed into crystal meth, said DEA Special Agent in Charge Robert Murphy, who runs the agency's Atlanta field office. The candles had stickers indicating they'd been inspected by authorities at the border, but the drugs went undetected, he said. Also on display were transparent evidence bags containing about 1,300 pounds (590 kilograms) of processed crystal meth that were seized in a Clayton County home along with about 100 gallons

(379 liters) of a product that could be cooked into about 5 to 7 pounds (2 to 3 kilograms) of crystal meth per gallon, Murphy said. The drugs on display represented about 2.3 million individual doses, he said.

"This is a staggering amount of methamphetamine, and it illustrates the problem that we have," he said.

Murphy said the production of the drug in Mexico results in a scary combination: a drug with higher purity and a lower cost.

The surge in resources associated with Operation Crystal Shield is expected to last at least through the end of the year, and authorities said they will be watching to see how the cartels pivot in response.

Three of the cities in the initiative are in Texas, partly because drugs shipped over its border can be difficult to intercept in the state's vast size.

Special Agent Eduardo Chávez, who leads the DEA's Dallas office, said the additional funding will help cover investigative expenses, including travel costs, and the focus on transit centers will catch traffickers in places they might think are lower risk. At the crossroads of several major highways, Dallas is a natural hub for legitimate and illicit commerce.

It's "far enough away from the U.S.-Mexico border that perhaps there's a false sense of security," Chávez said. "But thankfully we recognize that too." □

Lawsuit: 52 people faked Uber accidents for insurance money

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Some South Carolina residents deliberately caused hit-and-run accidents while in Uber rides as part of an insurance scam, a car insurance company says in a lawsuit.

The lawsuit from James River Insurance says 52 people were involved in an insurance scheme that cost the company more than \$75,000 in claims, The State reported Thursday. The suit

was filed in August.

The case involves 21 collisions reported to the company in the Columbia area between June 2017 and January 2019. The damage claims ranged from minor to thousands of dollars. Many of the people involved knew each other, the lawsuit says.

It says that in one incident an Uber driver was working with her two passengers and the driver and

passengers of another vehicle. The second vehicle allegedly ran a stop sign and crashed into the Uber, causing almost \$9,000 in damage, the lawsuit said. One person has responded to the lawsuit and denied the insurance company's claims.

A spokesman for the Columbia office of the FBI said the agency is aware of the lawsuit but declined to say if it is investigating. □

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AP-NORC poll: More Americans worry about flu than new virus

By **CARLA K. JOHNSON and HANNAH FINGERHUT**
Associated Press

A wide share of Americans are at least moderately confident in U.S. health officials' ability to handle emerging viruses, and more express concern about catching the flu than catching the new coronavirus, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The findings are encouraging to those banking on Americans' trust in the health officials who are ordering quarantines and travel restrictions to contain the virus first detected in China.

"Our ability to control the virus hangs on people's willingness to accept the advice of health authorities," said Jennifer Nuzzo of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security in Baltimore. If the virus spreads more widely, public trust will become even more important, Nuzzo said.

News of the coronavirus outbreak is pervasive, with about half saying they have heard or read a lot about

it. People who say they've heard a lot about the outbreak are more likely to say they're very concerned about it than people who have heard less than that, but high levels of concern are still rare.

Like many Americans, Chris Harris of Iowa City is keeping up with the news, but is not worried about the new coronavirus. He's more worried about influenza.

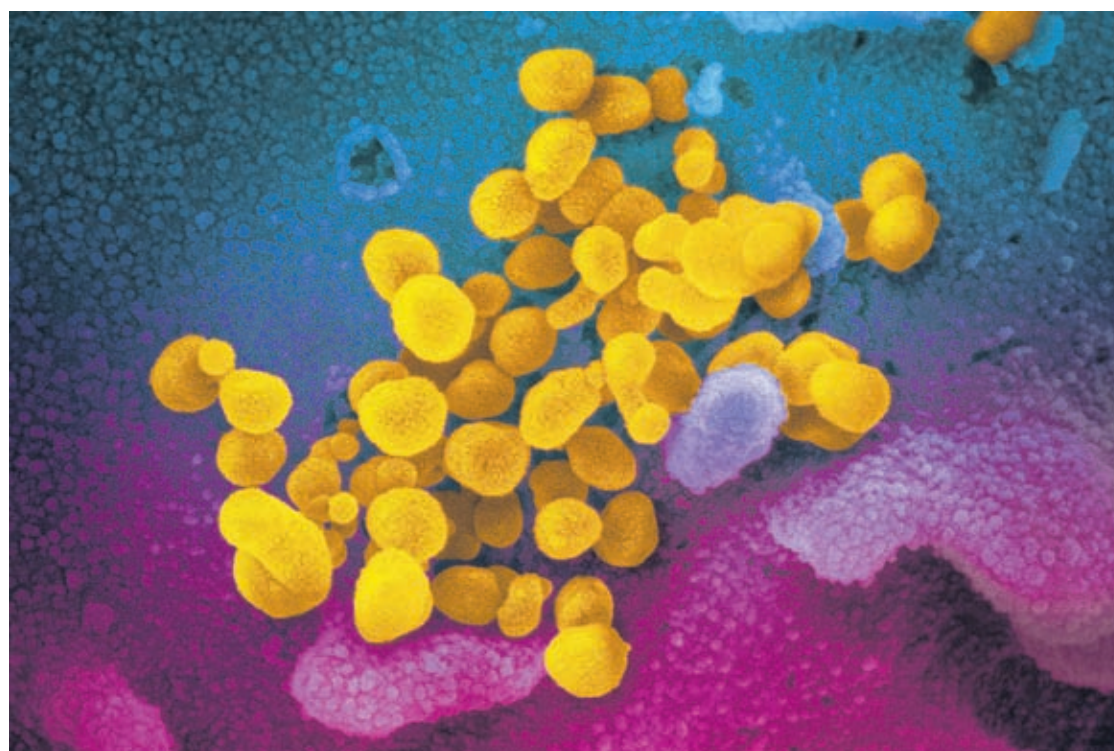
"I don't want to miss work," said Harris, a 51-year-old certified financial planner who's had his annual flu shot. "I'd be out for a few days and it would put me farther behind."

Comparable shares of Americans — roughly 2 in 10 — say they are very worried about getting the coronavirus and the flu.

Roughly another 2 in 10 say they are moderately worried about the coronavirus, but more than half of Americans say they are not concerned.

More have concerns about getting the flu: About 4 in 10 say they are moderately worried, while just about 3 in 10 say they are not.

That concern is appropri-



This undated electron microscope image made available by the U.S. National Institutes of Health in February 2020 shows the Novel Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, yellow, emerging from the surface of cells, blue/pink, cultured in the lab. Also known as 2019-nCoV, the virus causes COVID-19.

Associated Press

ate considering U.S. health officials estimate the nation has already seen at least 14,000 deaths from flu this season, said Janet Baseman of the University of Washington School of Public Health in Seattle.

"That's a threat we have year after year," Baseman said. In contrast, there have been 15 cases of the new virus in the United States, plus some Americans who were told they had it as they left a quarantined cruise ship in Japan. One U.S. citizen died in China.

Concern about the coronavirus is roughly equal among Americans who have had a flu shot in the past year and those who have not, the poll found.

Sarah Burton, 57, of suburban Indianapolis got her flu shot this year. The environmental management

consultant said she's more worried about the flu than about the new virus and she feels confident the U.S. health care system could handle an outbreak of a new pathogen.

"We're fortunate in the country that we don't have to panic about these things," she said of the new virus. "We should be able to deal with this type of situation in this country with our massive resources."

About a third of those polled have high confidence in officials' ability to handle an outbreak, while about 4 in 10 are moderately confident. About 2 in 10 say they are not confident.

"All this potentially could change when we start finding more cases in the U.S.," said Nuzzo, the health security expert. "It will be

different when they hear somebody in their community has the virus."

That may happen.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is starting an effort to see if the virus is spreading silently. The CDC is adding coronavirus testing to the network that normally tracks flu. When a patient sample tests negative for flu, lab workers will check it for the new virus.

The extra tests will start in public health labs in five cities: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Chicago and New York, then expand around the country.

As for Burton, she intends to stay informed about the new virus by reading three newspapers.

"The scary thing for me is they don't know how to stop it yet," Burton said. □

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Snow falls across coastal North Carolina, Virginia

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Snow was falling Thursday across North Carolina and Virginia, including in coastal areas that rarely see snow.

Gov. Roy Cooper said parts of northeastern North Carolina will see the most precipitation in the state, with as much as 3-6 inches (7.5-15 centimeters). He issued

a warning that, "White-out conditions are possible along the coast due to heavy snow and gusty winds."

"The state is getting ready, and everyone else should too," Cooper said, adding that "it's going to get colder and this winter storm will affect most parts of North

Carolina." Early in-person voting sites in dozens of North Carolina's 100 counties closed early on Thursday. Many voting sites were expected to have limited hours or to be closed on Friday, according to the State Board of Elections. Early voting for the March 3 primary ends Feb. 29. □

Nome, Alaska sued by woman who says rape wasn't investigated

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— A former police dispatcher in a small Alaska town filed a lawsuit Thursday, alleging her colleagues in the Nome Police Department didn't investigate after she filed a rape report.

Clarice Hardy's lawsuit claims the inaction was "part of the city's systemic and ongoing failure to protect Alaska Native woman from sexual abuse and assault."

The Associated Press does not normally name alleged victims of sexual assault but Hardy has repeatedly spoken in public about her experience.

The lawsuit filed in federal court on behalf of Hardy by the ACLU seeks unspecified monetary damages and a jury trial in Nome. It came after complaints by Alaska Native women were investigated by The Associated Press, the Anchorage Daily News and other media outlets.

The six counts in the lawsuit includes a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Last year, the ACLU sent a demand letter, seeking \$500,000 on Hardy's behalf if the city was willing to settle out of court.

"Those claims were essentially ignored, much like Miss Hardy's have, and the city refused to negotiate with us," Stephen Koteff, ACLU's legal director in Alaska, told reporters.

The lawsuit also seeks an injunction to force the City of Nome to cease any discriminatory practices and ensure all sexual assault reports are investigated thoroughly. It also seeks punitive damages from the city and separately from two former police officers.

Hardy said she no longer felt safe in Nome and moved to her home village, Shaktoolik, where she said girls and men tell her similar stories of abuse.

"It reminds me that no matter how bad my trauma is, or how real my depression, is that I have a voice for a

reason," she said, holding back tears. "I can't undo the harm done to the hundreds of women the Nome Police Department failed to help, but maybe I can stop this from happening again. Maybe that's my purpose." Nome's own police data showed between 2008 and 2017, only 8% of calls about sexual assaults against adults resulted in arrests with charges filed in the city of about 4,000 residents located on the Bering Sea coast.

Nome City Manager Glenn Steckmann, who has been on the job since November, told the AP he hadn't seen the lawsuit, and wouldn't be able to comment on pending litigation anyway. Besides the city, two former officers, Lt. Nicholas Harvey and Chief John Papasodora, were also named as defendants. Both no longer work for the police department.

The lawsuit claims Papasodora "was aware of these failures and ratified his staff's persistent practice of inadequately responding to sexual assault reports and allowed it to continue." An audit by Papasodora's successor, Robert Estes, found that 76 of the 182 sexual assault reports made between 2015 to 2018 were inadequately investigated. The lawsuit claimed Harvey was responsible for many of those faulty investigations. "In some of those cases, Lt. Harvey conducted no investigation at all," the lawsuit said.

Phone message and email messages to Harvey seeking comment were not returned. Efforts to find phone contact information for Papasodora were unsuccessful.

Estes quit in October 2019, a day after the Nome City Council rejected his request for more resources to investigate cases.

Hardy, of Inupiaq heritage, was a 911 dispatcher for Nome police from 2015 to 2018.

In March 2017, she awoke one morning, sore and bruised, with no memory

of getting home the night before. Friends called her, she said, telling her about photos and a video posted on Snapchat that seemed to show a man having sex with her while she was unconscious.

Hardy told Harvey she believed she'd been drugged at a local bar and then sexually assaulted. She said she gave him a list of witnesses but they later told her no one from the police department contacted them. Meanwhile she took calls from others who were seeking updates on their sexual assault reports from Harvey.

"Just tell her I'm working on it," was his response, Hardy previously told the AP.



Clarice Hardy speaks at a news conference Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020, in Anchorage, Alaska.

Associated Press

It was the same thing he told her every time she asked about her own case, Hardy said.

"That's when it sparked," she said. "Oh my God, he's not doing anything."

She told Papasodora, and she said he said he could not find a report. He asked her to fill out another report

and said he would give it to the Alaska State Troopers so they could investigate.

Two months later, Hardy said she asked him the status of the report. "Chief Papasodora told Ms. Hardy that he 'had been meaning to get to it,' but that he had not yet taken any action," the lawsuit said. □



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Israel confirms ultra-Orthodox draft figures were inflated

By JOSEPH KRAUSS

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli military said Thursday it found "serious, systemic failures" in its own reporting that inflated figures on the enlistment of ultra-Orthodox Jews, a hot-button issue in a country where most Jewish men are subject to mandatory conscription. The military launched an investigation after an expose by Israel's public broadcaster Kan in early December found that the military "doubled or even tripled" figures on the number of ultra-Orthodox men drafted for the past several years. The army had previously said that ultra-Orthodox draft figures have surged. The investigation instead found "serious, systemic failures that also related to professional capabilities as well as command responsibilities," Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, a military spokesman, told reporters. He declined to speak about exact numbers, which will be included in a report published later in the day, but said the discrepancies in some years ran into the "hundreds." The inquiry found that the army



In this Oct. 19, 2017 file photo, Israeli police scuffle with ultra-Orthodox Jews as they block a main road during a protest against Israeli army conscription, in Jerusalem.

Associated Press

failed to meet its recruitment goals from 2014 to 2018. Israel's politically powerful ultra-Orthodox political parties have used their influence over the decades to protect the draft exemptions, allowing young religious men to instead pursue religious studies in insular seminaries. The exemptions, coupled with generous welfare sub-

sidies for ultra-Orthodox men, have been a source of resentment among Israel's Jewish secular majority, who are required to serve. The ultra-Orthodox are also often schooled in separate systems that offer little of the core curriculum, leaving them ill-prepared for the modern workforce and breeding a culture of poverty. Experts have long warned

that the system is weighing down the economy and is unsustainable in the long run, calling on the government to integrate ultra-Orthodox men into the job market. The now-discredited military effort to enlist young ultra-Orthodox men was seen as an important step in this process. Issues of religion and state were among the main political fault lines in Israel's

two inconclusive elections last year, and promise to be a key issue in the upcoming March 2 elections. The vote will be the country's unprecedented third election in less than a year, and the Yisrael Beiteinu party headed by former Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman, whose platform has focused on what it says is the excessive influence of the ultra-Orthodox, is once again poised to make a strong showing. Conricus said the errors stemmed from "severe professional negligence" within the military's manpower directorate. "No direct instructions were given by senior commanders ... to manipulate or corrupt the data in any way or to provide false reports in order to meet recruitment goals," he said. "We did not find political pressure or financial motives." Instead, he said personnel in the directorate "gave themselves a very liberal interpretation of the law and of what they could do, which resulted in a conscious, intentional and systematic behavior that went beyond the definitions of the law." □

Irish lawmakers meet as wrangling to form government goes on

LONDON (AP) — Ireland's parliament convened Thursday for the first time since an election two weeks ago that left three parties on roughly level pegging, with no easy route to forming a stable government. Talks among the parties have failed to make much progress since the Feb. 8 election, which brought a breakthrough for left-wing nationalists Sinn Fein at the expense of the two long-dominant centrist parties, Fianna Fail and Fine Gael. Fianna Fail and Sinn Fein each hold 37 seats in the 160-seat Dail, parliament's lower house. Fine Gael has 35. Thursday's session opened with the election of a speaker, followed by parties nominating their candidates for Taoiseach, or



Sinn Fein Leader Mary Lou McDonald, center, with party lawmakers, arrives at Leinster House, Dublin, Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020.


Associated Press

prime minister. Sinn Fein leader Mary Lou McDonald, Fianna Fail leader Micheal Martin and Fine Gael leader Leo Varadkar were all nominated to the top post, but none secured enough votes to be elected.

Varadkar, the current Taoiseach, formally resigned as prime minister after the votes, but will stay on as caretaker leader until a successor is chosen. He's due to travel to Washington next month for the traditional St. Patrick's Day visit

to the White House by Ireland's leader. The election result was a major blow for Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, which have dominated Irish politics since the country won independence from Britain a century ago. The two parties have long shunned Sinn Fein because of its historic links to the Irish Republican Army and decades of violence in Northern Ireland. But Sinn Fein's radical proposals for tackling Ireland's housing crisis and creaking healthcare system proved a powerful draw for young voters in a country that is still dealing with aftershocks of the 2008 global financial crisis, which hammered its debt-driven "Celtic Tiger" economy. McDonald said she would

continue to seek coalition partners in the coming days and weeks. So far, Fianna Fail has ruled out an alliance with Sinn Fein. Varadkar has said he expects Fine Gael to end up in opposition. McDonald said Sinn Fein would "talk to everybody because that's what you do in a democratic system, that's what grown-ups do." "I do know this much, I know that nobody voted for a return of Fianna Fail and Fine Gael," she said. "I also know from speaking to people out and about, people of all politics and none, that any suggestion of return of the old Fianna Fail and Fine Gael government will cause huge disappointment right across the country and, I imagine, huge anger." □



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German gunman calling for genocide kills 9 people

By DAVID McHUGH, DAVID RISING and FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

HANAU, Germany (AP) — A 43-year-old German who posted a manifesto calling for the "complete extermination" of many "races or cultures in our midst" shot and killed nine people of foreign background, most of them Turkish, in an attack on a hookah bar and other sites in a Frankfurt suburb, authorities said Thursday. He was later found dead at his home along with his mother, and authorities said they were treating the rampage as an act of domestic terrorism.

The gunman attacked the hookah bar and a neighboring cafe in Hanau around 10 p.m. Wednesday, killing several people, then traveled about 2.5 kilometers (1.5 miles) and opened fire again, first on a car and then a sports bar, claiming more victims.

The bloodshed came amid growing concerns about far-right violence in Germany and stepped-up efforts from authorities to crack down on it, including last week's detention of a dozen men on suspicion they were planning attacks against politicians and minorities.

Chancellor Angela Merkel said the shootings exposed the "poison" of racism in Germany, and she pledged to stand up against those who seek to divide the country. "There is much to indicate that the perpetrator acted out of far-right extremist, racist motives," she said. "Out of hatred for people with other origins, other faiths or a different appearance."

Hookah lounges are places where people gather to smoke flavored tobacco

from Middle Eastern water pipes, and Metin Kan, who knew many of the victims, said it was obvious why the gunman chose the neighborhood.

"Look, a hookah bar there, a gaming parlor there, a doner kebab place there — it's a place frequented by immigrants," he said. "Why this hatred of foreigners? We all get along here." People of Turkish background make up Germany's single largest minority, and Turkey's ambassador said five of the dead were Turkish citizens.

Germany's federal prosecutor, Peter Frank, said that all nine people killed were of foreign backgrounds and that six others were injured, one seriously.

Investigators said it appeared the gunman acted alone, but Frank said authorities are trying to find out whether there were others who knew of or supported the attack. He added that his office is looking into any contacts the killer may have had inside Germany and abroad.

Kadir Kose, who ran over from a cafe he runs nearby after hearing the first shots, said he was shocked at the extent of the violence. While fights or stabbings aren't unheard of, he said, "this is a whole other level, something we hear about from America."

Witnesses and surveillance videos of the getaway car led authorities quickly to the gunman's home, said Peter Beuth, interior minister for the state of Hesse. Both the attacker and his 72-year-old mother had gunshot wounds, and the weapon was found on him, Beuth said.

Frank identified the gunman only as Tobias R., in line with German privacy



In this image taken from an undated self-recorded video, a man who identifies himself as Tobias Rathjen makes a statement.

Associated Press

laws, and confirmed he had posted extremist videos and a manifesto with "confused ideas and far-fetched conspiracy theories" on his website.

The man identified himself as Tobias Rathjen on the website, which has since been taken down but had a mailing address matching that of the home where the bodies of the killer and his mother were found.

In the manifesto, Rathjen claimed to have approached police several times with conspiracy theories. But Beuth said it does not appear the gunman had a criminal record or was on the radar of Germany's domestic intelligence agency.

Among the documents posted to the website was a 24-page, rambling manifesto in German detailing, among other things, fears that he has been under government surveillance for years. He blamed the surveillance for his inability to have a relationship with a woman.

"We now have ethnic

groups, races or cultures in our midst that are destructive in every respect," he also wrote. He said he envisioned first a "rough cleaning" and then a "fine cleaning" that could halve the world's population.

He wrote: "The following people must be completely exterminated: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Israel, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, the complete Arabian Peninsula, Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and the Philippines."

The attack was quickly condemned by many organizations, including the Central Council of Muslims, the Confederation of Kurdish Associations in Germany, and the Central Council of Jews.

"This poison exists in our society and it is responsible for far too many crimes," Merkel said, citing killings committed by a far-right gang known as the NSU, the fatal shooting last year of a regional politician from

her party, and a deadly attack on a synagogue in Halle in October.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called it a "heinous attack" and expressed confidence that German authorities "will exert all kinds of effort to shed light on all aspects of this attack."

The killer had a license to possess a gun, first issued in 2013, local authorities told Germany's dpa news agency. Local media reported he owned three 9 mm pistols.

Guns are strictly regulated in Germany, though some 5.4 million of the country's 83 million people possess them. Owners need to undergo background checks, including showing that they are not mentally ill. The gunman's permit was last checked in 2019, dpa said. German police were also examining a video he may have posted online several days before the attack in which he detailed a conspiracy theory about child abuse in the U.S., dpa reported. □



The remains of a Kerala state-run bus that collided head-on with a truck near Avanashi, Tamil Nadu state, India, Thursday, Feb.20, 2020.

Associated Press

Bus-truck collision on Indian highway kills at least 19

NEW DELHI (AP) — A bus collided at high speed with a truck on a highway in southern India early Thursday, killing at least 19 people, police said. The bus driver was among the dead, but the truck driver survived the head-on collision, said police officer Sauranya, who uses one name. She said nine injured people were hospitalized and others were allowed to go home after treatment. The accident occurred near Avinashi, a town in Tamil Nadu state. The state-operated bus was on its way to Thiruvananthapuram, the capital of Kerala state, from Banga-

lore in Karnataka state. "We do not know if the truck driver dozed off or if there was a tire burst, the Press Trust of India news agency quoted police officer Siva Vikram as saying. The truck entered the wrong lane and crashed into the bus coming from the opposite direction, ripping off part of its body and leaving tangled remains, he said. More than 110,000 people are killed every year in road accidents across India, according to police. Most crashes are blamed on reckless driving, poorly maintained roads and aging vehicles. □

Thai police arrest fugitive in Dutch expat's 2003 murder

BANGKOK (AP) — Police in Thailand have arrested a man who has been a fugitive since being convicted in absentia of the 2003 murder of a Dutch expatriate. Anupong Sutthani, one of three people convicted of killing Jules Odekerken, was arrested Tuesday evening in the northern province of Phrae, police said Wednesday. Odekerken married a Thai woman, Marisa Prommana, in 1997 and had been running a newspaper in the resort town of Pattaya when he was killed. A 2007 trial established that

his wife had conspired with a Thai lover and her elder brother to get Odekerken's life insurance and inherit his assets, which were estimated to be 100 million baht-200 million baht (\$3.2 million-\$6.4 million). Anupong, the lover, was a former politician who had working as a contractor to help build Odekerken's house, a police statement said. Odekerken was beaten to death by Anupong and the brother, Seksan Prommana, who left his battered body at a garbage dump, it said. □



Workers wearing protective gears spray disinfectant against the new coronavirus in front of a church in Daegu, South Korea, Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020.

Associated Press

New threats emerge in outbreak while China voices optimism

By **KEN MORITSUGU**
Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese health officials expressed new optimism Thursday over a deadly virus outbreak while authorities in South Korea's fourth-largest city urged residents to hunker down as fears nagged communities far from the illness' epicenter. The confidence voiced by China's government came as it reported a reduced number of new infections. But doubts remained about the true trajectory of the epidemic as China again changed its method of counting and new threats emerged outside the country.

"The downward trend will not be reversed," insisted Ding Xiangyang, deputy chief secretary of the State Council and a member of the central government's supervision group. Whatever promises were aired where the illness poses its biggest threat, countries around the world continued to grapple with the rippling effects. The latest front in the widening global fight against COVID-19 emerged in Daegu, South Korea, where the city's 2.5 million residents were urged to stay inside, wearing masks even indoors to stem further infection.

Mayor Kwon Young-jin made a nationally televised appeal for those preventative measures, warning that a rash of new cases could overwhelm the health system. He pleaded for help from the country's central government. Daegu and surrounding towns reported 35 new cases of the coronavirus on Thursday.

The flare-up came more than 1,400 kilometers (900 miles) from COVID-19's epicenter across the Yellow Sea in China's Hubei province and its capital of Wuhan, a sign of the risks the virus potentially poses to communities across the region and beyond.

"Everything that is not known about this is causing concern," said Dr. David Heymann, a professor of infectious disease epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Though all but about 1,000 of more than 75,000 reported cases of COVID-19 have been recorded in China, scattered cases have erupted elsewhere. Iran announced three more infections Thursday, a day after the country's state-run news agency, IRNA, reported its first two deaths stemming from the virus. In addition, South Ko-

rea reported its first fatality and Japan said two former passengers of the Diamond Princess cruise ship had died of the illness, bringing the death toll there to three.

Other deaths confirmed by the World Health Organization outside mainland China include two in Hong Kong and one each in France, the Philippines and Taiwan.

The trajectory of the outbreak remained clouded by China's zigzagging daily reports of new cases and shifting ways of tallying them.

The number of new cases in China declined again Thursday, to 394, a notable shift from the 1,749 figure released a day earlier. Another 114 deaths in China were linked to the virus.

But those statistics came after yet another change in how cases are counted. Last week, China's National Health Commission said officials in Hubei would record new infections without waiting for laboratory test results, relying instead on doctors' diagnoses and lung imaging. On Thursday, though, it returned to its prior way of counting, a decision sure to aggravate observers who say consistency is key to understanding COVID-19's path. □

South Sudan rival leaders agree to form coalition government

By MAURA AJAK
Associated Press

JUBA, South Sudan (AP) —

South Sudan's rival leaders on Thursday announced they have agreed to form a coalition government just two days before the deadline, a breakthrough after months of delays and a major step in the emergence from a five-year civil war that killed nearly 400,000 people in the world's youngest nation.

The rival leaders had twice missed deadlines in the past year to form the transitional government that is expected to lead to elections in three years' time, much to the impatience of the United States and others. Without that new government, many feared, South Sudan might slide into fighting again.

Opposition leader Riek Machar told reporters in the capital, Juba, he and President Salva Kiir agreed that after the government's formation they will resolve any outstanding issues laid out in a September 2018 peace deal. Machar said he is confident they will address them all.

Kiir said the new government will be formed on Saturday and he will appoint Machar as his first vice president, or top deputy, on Friday. That arrangement has twice led to conflict — once when the civil war erupted in late 2013 and again in mid-2016 after Machar returned to the post under a previous peace deal. He ended up fleeing the country on foot. The president said security arrangements, one crucial issue, will be resolved after the government's formation.

He said the protection of Machar and others with the opposition will be under

his responsibility.

"As for the other details that we have yet to agree upon, we will continue to iron and negotiate them out," Kiir said.

Another politically sensitive issue, the number of states, appears to have been resolved after Kiir over the weekend announced a "painful" compromise of 10 plus three administrative areas, down from 32.

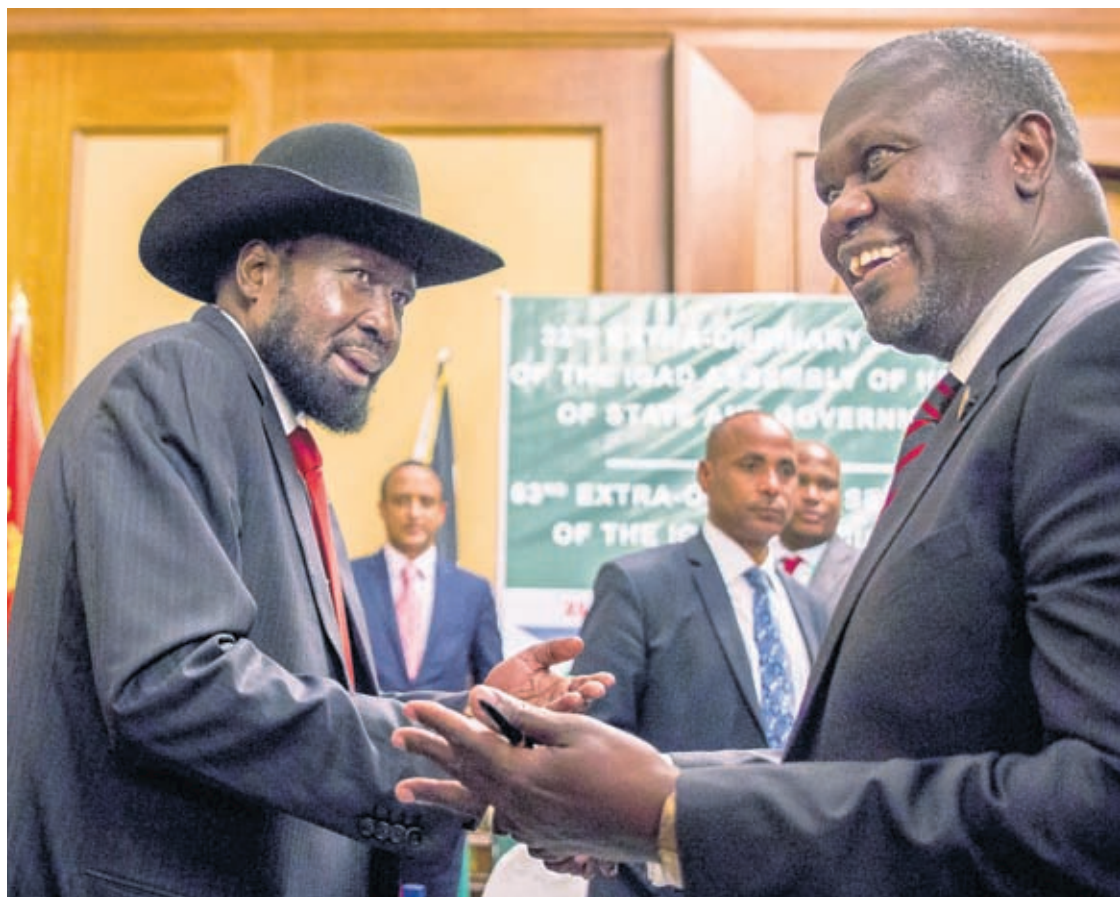
The changes are for the sake of peace to prevail, Kiir said Thursday. And he called on the more than 2 million people who fled South Sudan during the conflict to finally come home.

South Sudan's civil war broke out just two years after the nation danced in the streets to celebrate a long-fought independence from Sudan. The conflict badly hurt the oil-rich nation's economy, and roughly half the country's 12 million people are hungry today.

The United States, which has applied sanctions and other pressure to get South Sudan's rival sides to make a lasting peace, quickly welcomed Thursday's announcement.

Major challenges in the peace process remain, including the delicate process of integrating tens of thousands of former rival forces into a united army. That process has been marked by delays, the United Nations and others have said, noting that some of the forces appear to be poorly provisioned.

And widespread abuses such as the recruitment of child soldiers and sexual violence continue, a new report by the U.N. Commission on Human Rights on South Sudan said Thursday. "The world has forgotten



In this Thursday, June 21, 2018 file photo, South Sudan's President Salva Kiir, left, and opposition leader Riek Machar shake hands during peace talks in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Associated Press

South Sudan," the International Rescue Committee's country director, Susan Purdin, said this week, adding that the South Sudanese people deserve to live free from fear. "With the forma-

tion of the unity government, faith in the country will be restored."

Some observers, including peace deal guarantor Sudan, saw a sign of hope with Thursday's announce-

ment. The deputy head of Sudan's Sovereign Council, Mohamed Hamdan Daga-lo, said he appreciated the outcome of Kiir and Machar's meeting on resolving the issues that remain. □

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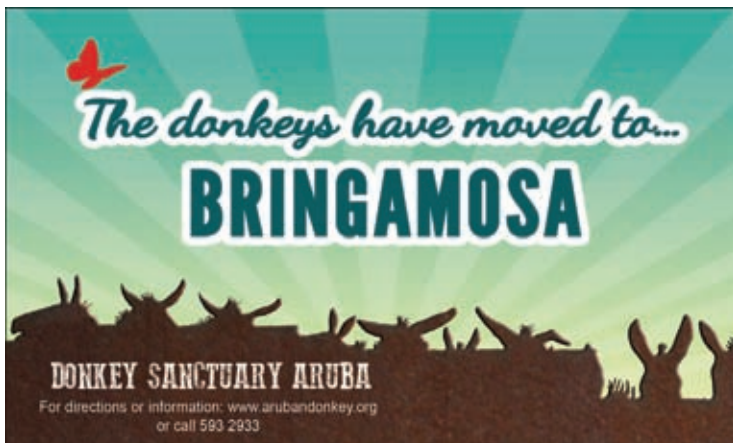


Bolivia's former President Evo Morales attends a meeting with members of his political party, the Movement Towards Socialism Party (MAS), in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Monday, Feb. 17, 2020. Associated Press

Bolivia bars ex-President Morales from running for Senate

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Bolivia's Supreme Electoral Tribunal on Thursday rejected the candidacy of former President Evo Morales for a Senate seat in May's national elections because he does not reside in the South American country. Tribunal head Salvador Romero said at a news conference the decision cannot be appealed with the electoral board, though he added that Morales "can explore any judicial routes he sees as pertinent." The tribunal did accept the presidential candidacy of former economy minister Luis Arce of Morales' Movement Toward Socialism party, who also faced a demand seeking his disqualification. Morales is barred by law from seeking the presidency but wanted to run for a seat in the Senate. Candidates are supposed to be residents of Bolivia, and Morales has taken refuge in Argentina while he faces charges in Bolivia connected to Octo-

ber's allegedly fraudulent election. Morales claimed that the since-annulled ballot re-elected him to a fourth term in office, but many opponents and an Organization of American States team raised questions about the vote count. He resigned the presidency and left Bolivia amid widespread protests and pressure from military leaders. The country remains bitterly divided following the often-violent tumult that erupted before and after Morales was pushed to resign. Besides Arce, the other presidential contenders for the May 3 election include centrist former President Carlos Mesa, who finished second in the October vote; interim President Jeanine Áñez, whose administration has worked to overturn many of Morales' policies and prosecute his allies; and regional civic leader Luis Fernando Camacho, a major leader of protests in the eastern economic center of Santa Cruz. □



In this Nov. 15, 2019, file photo is an Uber office in Secaucus, N.J.

Associated Press

Uber resumes operating in Colombia after 3-week hiatus

By MANUEL RUEDA
BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Uber restarted operations in Colombia Thursday after shutting down its app for almost three weeks, saying it had found "new alternatives" to work legally in the Latin American country, one of several where the company has faced resistance from unions and legislators. Uber said that from now on, its app will help users in Colombia enter contracts with drivers in which they are "renting" the vehicles along with the drivers' services. Opponents say the app competes unfairly against taxi drivers and evades some taxes. A spokeswoman for the company said the app is looking for ways to add taxi drivers to its Colombia platform. "We want to offer a diversity of services that will allow traditional, and new alternatives (for transport) to coexist," read a statement from Uber. In December, Colombia's Superintendency for Industry and Commerce had ordered Uber to shut down, following a lawsuit from a taxi company. The superintendency said Uber was providing transport in an "unregulated" fashion, and was diverting customers

away from taxis that pay licensing fees. Uber complied with the ruling but argued that it went against a free trade agreement between Colombia and the United States. The company also said the ruling was discriminatory as it only told Uber to cease operations, and did not address similar apps that also operate in Colombia, including Cabify, Didi and Beat. On Thursday, taxi unions and legislators expressed skepticism that Uber's new "rental" approach complies with laws regulating public transport in Colombia. "It's a mockery of the law," Ernesto Sandoval, general manager of Taxis Teleclub, a Bogota cab company, told Caracol radio. "You can't provide public transport and say it's a rental service." "This just shows you how in Colombia companies with money can do whatever they desire," said Jose Orlando Herrera, a Bogota cab driver, who said that he had to pay \$25,000 for his licensing fee. Herrera took a large loan to pay for his license, and says that every day he must earn around \$60 to cover his debts, and have some money left for himself. He said that since Uber started

to operate in Colombia, in 2013, he has had to work longer hours. "It's unfair" he said. But others have praised the app for providing work to people who are struggling to find employment, or are unable to work full time jobs. Eliana Quintero, a single mother who has been an Uber driver for the past two years, said she was "ecstatic" about the platform's return. "My car is not allowed to circulate today," she said. "But tomorrow I will be up at 4 a.m. driving." Quintero says Uber's flexible work hours allow her to spend more time with her son — who recently recovered from lung cancer — while making enough money to sustain her family. She credits Uber with giving her a new chance to enter the labor force, after being unemployed for years. "I am 42 and it's hard to get a new job at my age," she explained. Uber said in January that it had 88,000 affiliated drivers in Colombia, and approximately 2 million users. Legislators are currently working on a law that would regulate ride-sharing apps and make them pay social security for drivers, as well as taxes on their earnings. □

LOCAL



Best Caribbean Resort: Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort wins top honor

EAGLE BEACH — Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort has been chosen as #1 Best Caribbean Resort by readers of 10Best.com, a product of USA Today Travel Media Group. 10Best.com provides users with original, unbiased, and experiential travel content of top attractions, things to see and do, and restaurants for top destinations in the U.S. and around the world.

Guests of the winning resort enjoy easy access to Eagle Beach (named Best Caribbean Beach). An adults-only oasis on the island of Aruba, Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort sits on the white sands of Eagle Beach, where guests enjoy stellar views of the sea, warm breezes and tropical sunsets away from the more crowded areas of the island. The 104 rooms and

suites feature eco-friendly amenities, as well as free breakfast and Wi-Fi.

The top 10 winners in the category Best Caribbean Resort are as follows:

1. Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort - Aruba
2. Zemi Beach House - Anguilla
3. Four Seasons Resort Anguilla - Anguilla
4. Serenity at Coconut Bay - St. Lucia
5. Ambergris Cay - Turks & Caicos
6. Renaissance Curacao Resort & Casino - Willemstad, Curacao
7. Jade Mountain Resort - St. Lucia
8. Casa de Campo Resort and Villas - Dominican Republic
9. Sunset at the Palms - Negril, Jamaica
10. Spice Island Beach Resort - Grenada




A panel of experts partnered with 10Best editors to pick the initial nominees, and the top 10 winners were determined by popular vote.

Powder soft sands, crystal clear waters, sumptuous accommodations and exquisite service characterize these top tropical escapes in the Caribbean. □


Plastic ban: the law has passed



ORANJESTAD —The island's government made a decision in 2017 to ban all single use plastic bags and has now extended it to include items as plastic cups and straws and Styrofoam boxes, such as disposable coolers. Also, sunscreens containing oxybenzone is to be prohibited in Aruba. The ban is effective in 2019, with a one-year transition period to a total ban in 2020. The Plastic Ban Ordinance will go into effect as of July 1st 2020, together with the list of products that are prohibited. For more information please check our website: <https://www.arubatoday.com/plastic-ban-the-law-has-passed>. □




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Delete negative energy

By Melissa Martin

OHIO, USA — it be interesting if there was a delete button or buzzer to push for negativity? Buzzz. Your bad, sad, rad mood is gone. Buzzz. Complaining is banished. Buzzz. Self-pity is kicked out the door. Delete. Delete. Delete. Negative energy no more.

Humans are energy-producing creatures. We have physically measurable electromagnetic fields generated by living cells, tissues, and organs enclosed in a body with skin. Tissues and organs produce specific magnetic pulsations known as biomagnetic fields. The electrocardiogram and electroencephalogram are now joined by biomagnetic recordings called magnetocardiograms and magnetoencephalograms. Body parts (brain, heart, liver, muscles) need energy

to work. Food is our source of energy. Energy is released through movement and the effects of gravity. We use energy to breathe, think, and talk.

Brainwaves are produced by synchronized electrical pulses from masses of neurons communicating with each other. Neurons fire and wire together. Brainwaves change according to what we're thinking, feeling, and doing. Be mindful of the energy you're putting out and the energy you're putting in. Our brain consists of 5 different types of brain waves; Delta, Theta, Alpha, Beta and Gamma brain waves. Each of these of these brain waves has a normal frequency range in which they operate.

Be mindful of your thoughts. Become a "thought" detective and examine why you think what you think.

Are you pessimistic or optimistic? How do your respond to challenges and obstacles? Life has ups and downs. Do you only see the downs?

"The energy of the mind is the essence of life."—Aristotle

Be mindful of mental energy. Practice gratitude daily. Declutter the mind with music, reading, journaling, praying. Throw out perfectionism.

Be mindful of your words. The words we choose to use can help or hurt another person. We are managers of the tongue. Change your conversations. Do you often discuss what is wrong in the world instead of what is right? "I mean, language fascinates me anyway, and different words have different energies and you can change the whole drive of a sentence."—Alan Rickman



Melissa Martin, Ph.D. is an author, columnist, educator, and therapist. She lives in US.

Be mindful of your voice tone. Screaming at your kids is like filling a swimming pool with vinegar—it doesn't work. While vinegar is a natural substance, it's also acidic, which means it can cause damage when used improperly.

Be mindful of your facial expressions. Do you smile or frown more? Grimace or grin more? "I believe that smiling more benefits you directly -- even without its social benefits. You go to the gym to strengthen your muscles. Why not go to the smiling gym to strengthen your positive emotions?," asks journalist Eric Finzi in a 2013 article in The Atlantic. Be mindful of your emotions.

Negativity feeds on fear. Yes, we all need a trustworthy friend to listen when we need to vent, but a pattern of whining and grumbling zaps energy. Do you waste energy by worrying? Misguided guilt can also drain energy. Are you a blamer or shamer?

"People like to be around those who give off positive energy."—Erin Heatherton. Be mindful of sarcasm. Humor can release tension, but rudeness sends feel-good energy out of the window.

Be mindful of social media and comparing self

to others. It's like poking a balloon with a needle. The fake and phony selfie crowd needs a wake-up call to reality.

"If everyone were to spread positive energy on the Internet, the world would be a much better place."—Lu Wei

Be mindful of your reactions. Are you a drama diva or a drama dude? How do your vibes affect others?

Be mindful of the people in your friendship circle. Are you in a relationship with an energy vampire? Or an energy tornado?

"Instead of worrying about what you cannot control, shift your energy to what you can create."—Roy Bennett

Be mindful of nature: sun, sea, sand, surf. Refresh the soul with mountain hikes: crisp air, ancient rocks, wild flowers. Relax on a blanket in the backyard and watch fluffy clouds.

Could it be that you're unaware of your own negative energy? Tune into your own personal energy field and observe how you affect others. Be aware of vibrations being sent from your voice when emotional.

"Be a positive energy trampoline – absorb what you need and rebound more back."—Dave Carolan

Travel Tips

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1. When checking-in, you will always need your valid passport, along with your ticket, e-ticket receipt or e-ticket confirmation. For some countries a Visa is also required.
2. For all US-bound departures, check-in three hours before your scheduled departure time.
3. For all US-bound flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the left side of building; follow the signs and head towards local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates. Aruba Airport provides full US Pre-Clearance service.
4. For all Non US departures, check-in may vary between airlines and destinations; always consult your airline for more information. Being at the airport 3 hours before your departure flight is always safe.
5. For all Non US flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the right side of building; follow the signs and head towards Local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates.
6. If traveling with a carry-on, there are restrictions on liquids, gels and aerosols you can carry in your carry-on luggage. Always check with your airline on limitations.
7. Always check the weight limit of your baggage; excess weight may result in penalty fees.
8. Always label your bags and suitcases with your name, address and phone number.
9. Always leave all carry-on items unlocked while passing through screening points to not cause delays if these need to be inspected.
10. Avoid wearing big belt buckles, clothing with metal buttons, lots of jewelry etc. when traveling. If you have these on, remove all metal items and place these in a tray for screening. It is advisable to put all metal items in your carry-on luggage until you clear security. This will help speed up the process.
11. Remove shoes at checkpoint and place in tray for x-ray machine screening.
12. All electronic items should be placed in tray outside their case for x-ray screening.
13. Avoid packing foods and beverages in your check-in baggage. When traveling to the US, you have to comply with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More information <https://www.usda.gov/>.
14. If traveling with medication, please pack these in your carry-on luggage in their original packaging.
15. If you medical documentation, present this to the security checkpoint screener to inform them. The documentation is not required and will not exempt you from the screening process.
16. Take note of inadmissible items such as sharp objects, sporting goods, guns and firearms, martial arts and self-defense items, tools, explosive materials, flammable items, disabling chemicals and other items when traveling. More information available on www.airportaruba.com.

Picturesque sunsets and delicious variety of foods

PALM BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The Distinguished Visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation and to say 'Masha Danki', to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple **Bambi & Lynn Miller** from Ohio, USA.

This couple stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its cleanliness, and Aruba's warm and friendly people who became like family to them. This couple not only fell in-love with the island, but also brought family, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors to Aruba.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Divi Phoenix presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



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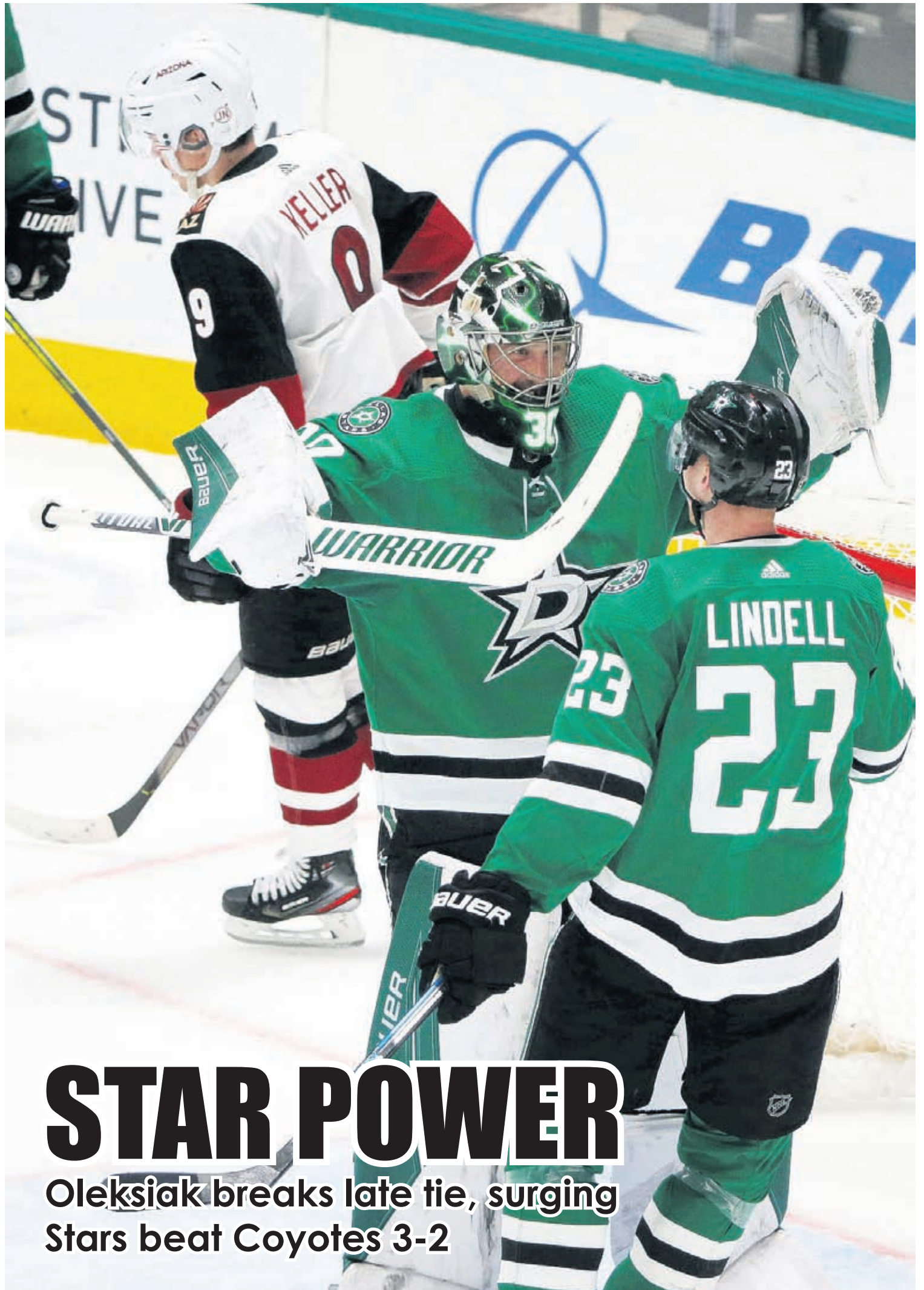


Washington Redskins owner Daniel Snyder arrives for an NFL owners meeting in New York, Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020.
Associated Press

NFL owners approve negotiated terms for new labor agreement

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL has put the labor ball in the players' hands. In a somewhat surprisingly strong decision, the 32 team owners voted Thursday to "accept the negotiated terms on the principles of a new collective bargaining agreement." Details of that agreement were not forthcoming from any of the owners or Commissioner Roger Goodell. They quickly scurried from a Manhattan hotel without nothing more than "sorry, can't help you," or "I can't comment" when asked about the proposed CBA. Now the onus is on the players, who have a conference call Friday involving its executive committee and player representatives. The NFL Players Association said it would not comment Thursday on the NFL's announcement. Such quick action by the owners indicates their eagerness to replace the 10-year labor agreement that concludes in March 2021.

Continued on page 22



STAR POWER

Oleksiak breaks late tie, surging Stars beat Coyotes 3-2

Dallas Stars goaltender Ben Bishop (30) celebrates with defenseman Esa Lindell (23) as Arizona Coyotes right wing Clayton Keller (9) skates away at the end of an NHL hockey game in Dallas, Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2019. The Stars won 3-2.

Associated Press
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Mcllroy roars out to a 2-shot lead in Mexico Championship

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Rory McIlroy switched back to his old putter for the Mexico Championship and it made a world of difference. It helps that he's still hitting the ball like the No. 1 player in the world.

McIlroy ripped a 4-iron from 275 yards into the thin air at Chapultepec to 15 feet for eagle on his second hole Thursday, made five more birdies and opened the Mexico Championship with a 6-under 65 for a two-shot lead.

This is the only World Golf Championship that McIlroy hasn't won as he tries to join Dustin Johnson as the only players to win all four of them.

Justin Thomas and Bubba Watson were at 67.

Abraham Ancer of Mexico got some of the biggest cheers, especially when he ran off three straight birdies to overcome a rough start. He opened with a 70.

The course, at about 7,800 feet above sea level, is ideal for McIlroy the way he launched the ball.

But this was about his putting. He took only 26 putts and ranked No. 4 in the key putting statistic for the round.

He attributes that to his regular 34-inch putter. A week ago at Riviera, he tried a 35-inch putter to help get his shoulder and elbow in a better position. But he said it hurt with lining up the



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland approaches the first green during the first round of the WGC-Mexico Championship golf tournament, at Chapultepec Golf Club in Mexico City, Mexico City, Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020.

Associated Press

putts, and it cost him. McIlroy was tied for the 54-hole lead and shot 73 in the final round — including a triple bogey on the fifth hole — and tied for fifth

"It didn't quite work out the way I want it to, so I went back to the 34-inch," he said. "I just felt a little bit more comfortable today and was seeing my lines a little bit better. And yeah, it was a good day."

As for swing? Efficient as

ever.

The best example of his advantage was the par-5 15th hole early in his round. U.S. Open champion Gary Woodland, who hits low-trajectory bullets, caught it a little high on the face of the club and it came out low with little spin. McIlroy launched a rocket and was 55 yards past him.

McIlroy hit 9-iron from 192 yards that set up a two-putt birdie. It was like that

all day.

"I think with the fairways being so soft, as well, on a couple of the par 5s I teed it up high and sort of launched it," he said. "And then even the drive on the eighth hole, getting it up and over the trees, I hit a 9-iron in there, where Gary and Tommy (Fleetwood) were hitting 6's in. So that's a pretty big difference."

Woodland was even with him until a few mistakes on the front nine sent him to a 70. He's not about to change his game for one week in high altitude.

"Rory likes to hit it up in the air," Woodland said. "This golf course ... I'm surprised he hasn't won here because it suits up perfectly for him."

McIlroy played nicely last year, finishing at 16-under 268, and lost by five shots to Dustin Johnson, another guy whom the course suits well — just not this year.

Johnson, who has gone a year without winning, opened with a 76, his highest opening round since the British Open at Carnoustie in 2018. His only birdie was on No. 1 after making the turn. He hit 3-wood on 303-yard hole to 8 feet and missed the eagle putt.

Chapultepec has plenty of scoring holes, but it's easy to get out of position and the poa greens are every bit as difficult to putt as Riviera last week.

Not making it any easier was a wind with gusts up to

15 mph, unusual in the four years this World Golf Championship has come to Mexico City.

"You can go so low, but man, if you're not playing well, you can shoot over par in a heart beat," Thomas said. "It's pretty tough to manage your score."

Louis Oosthuizen, Billy Horschel, Bryson DeChambeau and Corey Connors were at 67. Connors was in position to keep pace with McIlroy until missing a 10-foot birdie on the 15th hole, and then missing the 18-inch par putt.

Watson arrived in Mexico in a good frame of mind after missing the cut in Los Angeles, where he said he hit the ball great but could make a putt. He stuck around for the weekend, called Justin Bieber and had a foursome of fun at Lakeside.

"Freed it up and just had some fun and realized I was in a good frame of mind," he said. "Who cares about missing a cut, really? We've got other things to worry about."

His only worry Thursday was wind and elevation, a tough combination.

Jon Rahm, who has a mathematical chance to reach No. 1 with a victory, didn't make a birdie until the 15th hole and still salvaged a 72. Adam Scott, who won last week at Riviera, opened with a 74, along with Jordan Spieth.

Only 18 players from the 72-man field broke par. □

Kyle Stanley shoots 64 to take lead Puerto Rico Open lead

RIO GRANDE, Puerto Rico (AP) — Kyle Stanley shot an 8-under 64 on Thursday to take a two-stroke lead in the PGA Tour's Puerto Rico Open.

With most of the top players in the world playing in the World Golf Championship event in Mexico, Stanley had nine birdies and a

bogey in windy afternoon conditions at Coco Beach Golf & Country Club.

"Just kind of caught a hot putter," Stanley said. "Ball-striking was pretty good and felt like I drove it well, too. Just a pretty solid round of golf. Kind of made my fair share of putts. Got off to a really nice start,

birdieing my first three out of the gate. Pretty windy out there, so I'm really happy with the round." The two-time PGA Tour winner followed his opening birdie burst with another birdie on the par-5 fifth. He bogeyed the par-3 eighth, then birdied the next four and the par-5 15th. "To be honest, I

really haven't been playing that well the past month or so," Stanley said. "I really struggled with my ball-striking last week in L.A., but felt like I putted pretty well. Just tried to clean up a few things in my swing and continue with some good putting prep leading into today."

Peter Uihlein, Josh Teater, Emiliano Grillo, Chris Couch, Henrik Norlander and Rhein Gibson shot 66, and 2013 winner Scott Brown, Martin Laird, Jay McLuen, MJ Daffue, Wes Roach and Julian Etulain followed at 67.

"When it gets this windy, really the number on the bottom of the club kind of becomes obsolete, really," Uihlein said. "It's all about flight and what you want to hit, what you want to see."

Tom Lewis, the highest-ranked player in the world in the field at No. 57, shot 73. Defending champion Martin Trainer opened with a 74. He played a five-hole stretch on his opening nine in 5 over with three bogeys and a double bogey. Six-time tour winner Bill Haas birdied two of the last four holes in a 69. □



Federer to miss French Open, other events after knee surgery

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer

Roger Federer will miss the French Open and no fewer than three other tournaments while he is sidelined for at least four months after having arthroscopic surgery on his right knee.

It's only the second operation for the 38-year-old Federer — the other was on his left knee in 2016 — and one that is certain to raise questions about his future in tennis.

He posted on social media Thursday that his knee had been an issue "for a little while."

"I hoped it would go away," he said.

The man who has spent more weeks ranked No. 1 than any other and owns a men's-record 20 Grand Slam titles said the operation was in his home country of Switzerland on Wednesday. He currently is ranked No. 3 behind rivals Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal.

"After the procedure, the doctors confirmed that it was the right thing to have done and are very confi-

dent of a full recovery," Federer wrote.

He ended up taking off the last six months of the season after his left knee surgery four years ago. When he returned, he won the Australian Open and Wimbledon in 2017, then the Australian Open again in 2018, his most recent major championship.

Last month in Melbourne, Federer was hampered by what he said was a groin muscle problem. He needed to erase seven match points to get past Tennys Sandgren in the quarterfinals, then was clearly not quite himself during a straight-set loss to Djokovic in the semifinals.

Now Federer, who for years has faced questions about how much longer he'll compete, will miss upcoming hard-court tournaments in Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Indian Wells, California; and Miami, along with what was supposed to be a rescheduled exhibition match in Bogota, Colombia, that was canceled in November because of rioting there.

He also is going to sit out Roland Garros, the next Grand Slam tournament, which begins May 24. That means this will be the fourth time in the past five years that Federer is absent from the clay-court major that he won in 2009 to complete a career Grand Slam. The French Open is the lone major title he's won just once; in fact, it is the only one he has not won at least five times.

Federer closed Thursday's message by saying: "see you on the grass!"

That is the surface he's excelled on the most, including a record eight championships at Wimbledon, where he was the runner-



Switzerland's Roger Federer reacts during press conference following his semifinal loss to Serbia's Novak Djokovic at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020.

Associated Press

up on four occasions. That includes in 2019, when he held two championship points in the final against Djokovic before losing a fifth-set tiebreaker.

Play begins at the All Eng-

land Club on June 29. Federer usually warms up for Wimbledon at the grass-court tournament in Halle, Germany, which starts June 15. He has won 10 titles at Halle. □

Halep rallies to set up Dubai semifinal against Brady

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Top-seeded Simona Halep came from a set down for the second day in a row to beat Aryna Sabalenka 3-6, 6-2, 6-2 Thursday and reach the semifinals at the Dubai Championships.

Halep had to save a match point against Ons Jabeur on Wednesday and again found herself in trouble against the hard-hitting Sabalenka. But she broke for a 3-1 lead in both the second and third sets to earn her third win in four career meetings with the Belarusian.

"It's always tough to play against her because she's

very strong and hits the ball really, really hard," Halep said. "I think I played quicker in the second set and third set. She didn't have time to stay and to hit the ball. So I think that was the key of the match."

Halep will next face American qualifier Jennifer Brady, who upset former No. 1 Garbine Muguruza 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-4 to reach her third career WTA semifinal.

Brady wasted a 5-2 lead in the first set, but won the last four games of the second and broke again in the final game of the decider.

In the other semifinal, Elena Rybakina will play Petra Martic.

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Oleksiak breaks 3rd-period tie, leads Stars past Coyotes 3-2

By The Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Jamie Oleksiak broke a third-period tie with his first goal in 26 games and the Dallas Stars held on to beat the Arizona Coyotes 3-2 on Wednesday night.

Oleksiak stepped up into the top of the slot, took a pass from Alexander Radulov and sent a low snap shot past goalie Adin Hill with 8:22 remaining.

Dallas is 5-0-1 in its last six games to pull even with Central Division leader St. Louis.

Ben Bishop made 21 of his season-high 39 saves in the first period.

Corey Perry and Radek Faksa scored power-play goals for Dallas.

Taylor Hall had a power-play goal for Arizona, Christian Fischer also scored in the second period and Hill stopped 30 shots.

Perry had a goal and an assist and Denis Gurianov had two assists for the Stars. Jordan Oesterle assisted on both Arizona goals.

RANGERS 6, BLACKHAWKS 3

CHICAGO (AP) — Chris Kreider and Mika Zibanejad each had a goal and two assists as the Rangers scored five times in the third period and beat Chicago. Pavel Buchnevich had a goal and assist, and Filip Chytil, Ryan Strome, and Artemi Panarin scored as New York rebounded from a 3-1 loss to Boston on Sunday to win for the fifth time in six games.

Dominik Kubalik scored



Dallas Stars left wing Blake Comeau (15) keeps the puck away from Arizona Coyotes center Christian Dvorak (18) during the third period of an NHL hockey game in Dallas, Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2019. The Stars won 3-2.

Associated Press

twice, giving him 25 goals to lead NHL rookies. Drake Caggiula also connected for Chicago, which has just one win in its last eight games (1-5-2).

Duncan Keith set up Kubalik's first goal for his 500th career assist.

Igor Shesterkin made 37 saves in his return after missing three games with an ankle injury.

Robin Lehner blocked 35 shots for the fading Blackhawks.

BRUINS 2, OILERS 1, OT

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — David Pastrnak scored the winner 1:14 into overtime to give Boston a victory over Edmonton.

Pastrnak was set up for the

goal on a pass from David Krejci. He tucked the puck between Oilers goalie Mike Smith's legs for his 43rd of the season.

Patrice Bergeron scored his 27th goal for the Bruins, who have won four straight and are 10-1-0 in their last 11 games.

Sam Gagner had a goal for the short-handed Oilers, who are expected to be without Connor McDavid for much of the month because of a leg injury.

AVALANCHE 3, ISLANDERS 1

DENVER (AP) — Pavel Francouz made 27 saves and lost his first NHL shutout with just over two minutes remaining as Colorado beat the Islanders.

Gabriel Landeskog, Andre Burakovsky and Joonas Donskoi scored to help Colorado end a three-game skid.

The Islanders continued their offensive struggles in losing their fourth straight despite another strong performance by Semyon Varlamov. The goaltender, who spent eight seasons with the Avalanche before signing with New York last summer, had 26 saves in his first game in Denver since leaving Colorado.

Brock Nelson scored his 22nd of the season with Varlamov off for an extra skater and New York trailing by three.

PANTHERS 4, DUCKS 1

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Vincent Trocheck and Aleks Saarela each scored second-period goals off fortuitous rebounds and Florida rallied from an early deficit to beat Anaheim.

Aleksander Barkov and MacKenzie Weegar also scored a goal for Florida, while Sergei Bobrovsky made 35 saves as the Panthers improved to 2-0 on a key five-game West Coast trip.

Florida won consecutive games in California with another at Los Angeles on Thursday. The Panthers earned a 5-3 victory at San Jose on Monday.

Max Jones scored and John Gibson had 28 saves for the Ducks, who dropped the opener of a six-game homestand. The Ducks have lost three of their past four games and have lost three consecutive home games.

WILD 4, CANUCKS 3, SO

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Alex Galchenyuk scored the tying goal and the shootout winner as Minnesota beat Vancouver.

Kevin Fiala and Luke Kunin also scored in regulation for Minnesota, and Mats Zuccarello had two assists. Devan Dubnyk stopped 31 shots.

J.T. Miller scored twice in the third period and Jay Beagle added a goal for Vancouver. Quinn Hughes recorded two assists. Jacob Markstrom made 25 saves. □



New Jersey Devils center Blake Coleman (20) blocks as Detroit Red Wings defenseman Filip Hronek (17) tries to flip the puck to a teammate during the second period of an NHL hockey game, Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020, in Newark, N.J.

Associated Press

NHL teams get jump on deadline with flurry of early trades

By STEPHEN WHYNO
AP Hockey Writer

Tom Fitzgerald changed teams twice at the NHL trade deadline as a player and knows how it feels.

As interim general manager of the New Jersey Devils, he didn't wait until deadline day to trade captain Andy Greene or forward Blake Coleman. Beating the buzzer by more than a week, Fitzgerald recalled his own rough experiences

of getting dealt late.

"I wish I was traded a week and a half before so I could get adjusted a little bit quicker," he said.

Greene and Coleman are among more than a half-dozen players who are already adjusting to a new team because of an early trading flurry. The deadline isn't until Monday, but some major moves are already done thanks to a clear definition between buyers and

sellers, contenders interested in the same possibilities, and reasonable prices around the league.

"Over (last) weekend, a lot of things started to pick up," said Los Angeles Kings GM Rob Blake, who has already made three trades and could still be active. "It seems after the All-Star break, a lot of teams start finding their direction on where they're going, what's available and prices." □

Wilder, Fury, to answer questions in big heavyweight rematch

By **TIM DAHLBERG**

AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The best fights come with questions, and there are many surrounding Deontay Wilder and Tyson Fury as they meet in a rematch that is arguably the biggest heavyweight title fight since Lennox Lewis destroyed Mike Tyson 18 years ago in Memphis.

The best fighters usually end up providing the answers, and that's what makes Saturday's showdown must-see TV even for those who are only casual fans.

Can Fury outbox Wilder again like he did in the first fight, which ended in a draw? Can Wilder land the same kind of devastating punches that left Fury flat on his back in the 12th round of that fight, seemingly for good, in the 11th defense of his title? Can one heavyweight rule the roost and give boxing the champion — and division — the sport has been thirsting for all these years?

Tune in to the \$79.99 pay-per-view to see those questions answered in a heavyweight fight so big it got a shout-out this week from Amy Klobuchar in the Democratic presidential debate.

"Boxing is back," promoter Bob Arum crowed. "And as a really important sport, not a niche sport anymore."

The heavyweight division is back, too, with Wilder and Fury topping a list of attractive fighters that includes another British fighter, Anthony Joshua, and the portly yet charming Andy Ruiz Jr.

Wilder and Fury could make

\$40 million each in their eagerly anticipated rematch, and there are plenty of heavyweight matchups to get people talking about the big guys once again.

And big they are, with Wilder checking in at 6-foot-7 and 230 pounds of frightful power. Fury is more of a boxer but even bigger at 6-9 and 270, which he reminded Wilder of as they stood in a toe-to-toe face off at Wednesday's final prefight news conference to promote the bout.

"Look how small you are, you midget," Fury barked at Wilder.

"You're the one who was on the ground," Wilder replied. "I was standing on top of you."

That's exactly where Wilder was in the 12th round in the first fight in Los Angeles, and he thought Fury wasn't getting up. With good reason, because the other fighters he has knocked out during his career — 41 of the 42 he faced before Fury, to be exact — didn't.

Fury, though, not only somehow managed to pull himself up but finished the fight strong. The official decision was a draw that satisfied neither fighter, but the fight was so entertaining it was certain they would do it again.

Fourteen months later they are doing just that — and Wilder (42-0-1, 41 knockouts) said this time Fury won't be upright at the end.

"Round 12 has been living in his mind a long time," said Wilder, the 2008 Olympic bronze medalist from Birmingham, Alabama. "It's always living in his head. If he



Deontay Wilder, left, shoves Tyson Fury, of England, during a face off for photographers at a news conference for their upcoming WBC heavyweight championship boxing match, Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

says otherwise, he's lying."

To be sure, round 12 is living in a lot of heads lately because ESPN and Fox Sports have replayed the knockdown hundreds of times in a relentless buildup for the fight. The two networks are combining to show the pay-per-view, as well as hosting a flurry of programming leading up to the bout.

It may not hit the 1.99 million pay-per-views that Tyson and Lewis combined to sell in 2002, but it's not for a lack of trying. Both Fury and Wilder talk as well as they fight, and they have done everything possible to make themselves household names in houses where boxing is not normally discussed.

That included some pushing and shoving and trash talking when they met this

week at the MGM Grand in a news conference televised by ESPN2 and Fox Sports 1 that was mostly an infomercial — complete with commercial breaks — for those unfamiliar with the fighters.

"It's refreshing to have another character in your division be able to talk and promote as well," Wilder said. "A lot of these guys don't want to talk and you have to spread the message. And the message is on Saturday night people can witness an amazing fight and, in my case, the hardest-hitting puncher in boxing history."

That's debatable, of course, but if styles do really make fights, the two heavyweights should put on a good clash in their rematch. Wilder is predicting a real knockout this time,

while Fury says he will turn the tables and go after the big puncher instead of boxing his way to a decision win.

"He's a bully and when a bully gets bullied he falls every time," Fury (29-0-1, 20 knockouts) said. "Is there anything the Gypsy King can't do?"

Odds makers posted the fight as pick 'em with no betting favorite, a rare line in boxing. The line is appropriate, if only because these are arguably the two best heavyweights in the world — and they're not afraid to meet each other in one of the biggest heavyweight showdowns in recent times.

"I know he's coming for a fight and I'm coming for a fight," Fury said. "The fans are going to be in for a treat." □

Ortiz: Fiers 'looking like a snitch' in Astros cheating

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — Retired Boston Red Sox slugger David Ortiz said that Astros pitcher Mike Fiers was "looking like a snitch" for disclosing the team's cheating scandal only after he had left the team.

"Oh, after you make your money, after you get your ring, you decide to talk

about it?" Ortiz said after arriving at the Red Sox spring training complex on Thursday. "Why didn't you talk about it during the season when it was going on? Why didn't you say, 'I don't want to be part of it?'"

"So you're looking like a snitch," said Ortiz, who works for the Red Sox under

the title special assistant. "Why do you have to talk about it after? That's my problem. Why did nobody say anything while it was going on?" The Astros were found to violate baseball rules by using video to steal opponents' signs during their World Series championship season of 2017. □



In this May 25, 2019, file photo, Oakland Athletics pitcher Mike Fiers works against the Seattle Mariners in the first inning of a baseball game in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press



In this Dec. 15, 2019, file photo, Cleveland Browns wide receiver Jarvis Landry (80) runs after a catch against the Arizona Cardinals during the second half of an NFL football game, in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press

Browns WR Landry has hip surgery, expected to play in 2020

CLEVELAND (AP) — Browns Pro Bowl wide receiver Jarvis Landry elected to have hip surgery after initially opting not to have the operation.

Landry was bothered by his hip all last season, but still finished with a team-leading 83 catches for 1,117 yards and six touchdowns. He visited a specialist after the season and decided not to have the procedure before changing his mind after playing with pain in the Pro Bowl.

The Browns said Landry's surgery was performed on

Tuesday in Minnesota by Dr. Christopher Larson.

Landry had estimated he would be sidelined six to eight months if he had the surgery. However, a Browns spokesman said the team expects Landry to make a complete recovery "for the 2020 season."

"I was kinda happy that I went to Pro Bowl, that I did Pro Bowl because that was more of an indication of why I needed the surgery," Larson said on Landry's video posting that he repaired the cartilage issue by shaving it. □

Dolson re-signs with Chicago; chosen for U.S. 3-on-3 team



In this Aug. 16, 2019, file photo, Chicago Sky's Stefanie Dolson shoots during the first half of the team's WNBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Sparks in Chicago.

NEW YORK (AP) — It's been a busy week for Stefanie Dolson.

She was part of the NBA All-Star festivities this past weekend in Chicago, as well as being selected to the USA Basketball 3-on-3 qualifying team. The All-Star center also re-signed with the Chicago Sky. The free agent said that she never considered going anywhere else and always wanted to stay in Chicago. "To know James (Wade) and Michael (Alter), they want to keep me and wanted me to come back. We are trying to build something here," she said in a phone interview Wednesday. "I am only getting old-

er, so it's like I want to win a championship. The pieces we've moved and things we've done has helped us and benefited us. I'm happy to be back in Chicago." Dolson started all 34 games for Chicago last season, averaging 9.3 points, 5.6 rebounds, 2.2 assists and one steal in 25 minutes per game. She currently ranks fourth in the WNBA in field goal percentage, finishing the season with 51.8%.

"Stefanie is a big part of our identity on both ends of the floor, and off the floor as well," Chicago coach James Wade said. "She has proven to be a crucial piece in our turnaround, and I couldn't imagine go-

ing into 2020 without her."

The 28-year-old New York native was chosen for the U.S. 3-on-3 team on Monday, along with WNBA players Kelsey Plum, Allisha Gray and Napheesa Collier. They will be playing in India next month hoping to qualify the U.S. for the Tokyo Olympics. This is the first time that 3-on-3 will be an Olympic event.

"It's huge. The first of anything is always special and unique and for me I've been trying out for 5-on-5 forever. Unfortunately my spot is so deep with talent. I know and have known that it would be very hard to make that team. To have this opportunity to put the jersey on and represent USA at the Olympics would be incredible for me. I would freak out if that happens."

Dolson is aware that the U.S. has to qualify first. The Americans need to finish in the top three in the qualifier out of the 20 teams to make it to the Olympics.

The 3-on-3 rules are made for up-tempo competition. There's one 10-minute period, making 3-on-3 a lot quicker than its 5-on-5 counterpart. □



Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, left, and his son Stephen Jones, the team's executive vice president, leave after NFL owners meet to discuss a proposed labor agreement, Thursday Feb. 20, 2020, in New York.

Associated Press

Continued from page 17

Several elements of a new CBA could be implemented for the upcoming season should the players vote

in favor of it.

That, of course, is no given. Should the players vote against accepting this proposal or seek further negoti-

ations, the NFL has said the current agreement would remain in place for 2020. A league statement put a deadline on acceptance by the union, saying "since the clubs and players need to have a system in place and know the rules that they will operate under by next week."

The league's business year begins March 18.

Among the items in that proposal, according to several people familiar with the negotiations but speaking anonymously because they are not authorized to release such information:

— A 17-game schedule, which always has been a stumbling block in talks with the NFL Players Association. More roster spots per team would be a must for the players.

A 17th game would prefer-

ably be played at neutral sites, which one of the people familiar with the talks said could include non-NFL U.S. venues as well as Europe, Mexico and Brazil.

— A reduction of the preseason, initially from four games to three.

— A higher share of revenues for the players; the current number is 47 percent. The cut the players would receive is dependent on the length of the regular season, but would remain below 50 percent regardless.

— An expansion of the playoffs, something the NFL has been seeking for years.

Commissioner Roger Goodell suggested back in 2015 that increasing the postseason field to seven teams in each conference was in the works. The owners could unilaterally add a

wild-card team in the AFC and the NFC, but are willing to make such a move part of a new CBA.

The provisions for two more wild-card games, developed years ago, would have only the team with the best record in each conference receiving a bye for the first weekend of the playoffs.

There's even a chance one of those wild-card matchups would be played on a Monday night.

Also being considered is a second bye week to go with a 17th game, although almost certainly not for the 2020 season. The expansion of the playoffs easily could occur this year, however, if a new CBA is reached.

The current labor agreement was reached in 2011 after a 4½-month lockout of the players. □

Paul, Thunder surprising league heading into stretch run

By **CLIFF BRUNT**
AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Chris Paul gets annoyed when the topic of the Thunder's "surprising" success comes up.

Expectations for Oklahoma City were low for many after an offseason during which the Thunder collected draft picks, traded Russell Westbrook to the Houston Rockets for Paul and sent Paul George to the Los Angeles Clippers for Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Danilo Gallinari.

Many weren't sure if Oklahoma City's new players would function well together — or if the group would stay together.

It also wasn't clear if Paul could perform at an elite level at age 34, or if he could stay healthy. But Paul has embraced what appeared to be an undesirable situation and was named an All-Star for the 10th time. The Thunder not only stayed intact but came out of the All-Star break sixth in the Western Conference and firmly in the playoff race.

Asked what skeptics might have missed when projecting Oklahoma City to be one of the worst teams in the league, Paul bluntly said, "That I was here."

Paul also isn't satisfied with Oklahoma City's 33-22 record going into Friday's home game against Denver.

"I expected the record to be better, you know what I mean?" he said. "I expect to win every night. I'm not as surprised as y'all are, I guess. I'm just not."

He missed being that clutch player while deferring to James Harden in Houston. Now that he's the man again, he earned his way to being named an All-Star for the first time since 2016. "That's why you play these games," Paul said. "For that adrenaline."

Paul immediately established himself as a leader. He had the team fitted for custom suits, and before a December game against Memphis, the players walked into Chesapeake Energy Arena wearing them. The Thunder overcame a 24-point deficit that night to win 126-122. Paul's team-building efforts have carried over onto the court.

"He's one of the top point guards to ever play this game," Thunder guard Dennis Schroder said. "He changed the culture here as well -- how we're playing together as a team. He's talking to every one of us



Chris Paul of the Oklahoma City Thunder dunks during the first half of the NBA All-Star basketball game Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020, in Chicago.

Associated Press

every time during games, practices. Even if you're off the court, he talks to us. A leader in this group."

In some ways, Paul's 15th season has been one of his best. He is shooting 55% on 2-point shots, the highest mark of his career. He is shooting 89.8% from the free-throw line, which would be his second-highest percentage for a season. He averages 17.4 points, 6.7 assists and 5.0 rebounds per game.

"I think it speaks to him from

the standpoint of just how diligent he is and how driven and motivated he is to try to get every once out of his own ability, from dieting to training to working out to shooting," coach Billy Donovan said.

Paul kept rolling by posting 23 points and six assists in the All-Star Game. He wasn't chosen as a starter, but Team LeBron coach Frank Vogel had him in at the end. "It's about working hard, and it's the analytics and the statistics that say

at this age you can do this or you can do that -- look at my brother Bron (LeBron James)," Paul said after the game. "Every year, they say he's going to slow down, right? And then what? So I think it's more about competing with yourself and not worry about what everybody else is saying."

For as much as Paul's play has stood out, he's happy to see others succeeding. He loves the fact that the Thunder don't really have a standout player. □

Nets' Kyrie Irving to have season-ending shoulder surgery

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Brooklyn Nets guard Kyrie Irving will have arthroscopic surgery on his right shoulder and miss the rest of the season.

The Nets made the announcement Thursday before playing the Philadelphia 76ers in their first game after the All-Star break.

Coach Kenny Atkinson said the point guard was still having trouble with the shoulder that sidelined him for 26 games earlier this season.

"Some days it was OK and other days it bothered him," Atkinson said. "Obviously, it is difficult to perform under those circumstances."

Irving said pain in the shoulder initially worsened after a game on Nov. 4. The Nets then went on a five-game road trip, where Irving continued to play until the pain got so bad he was having trouble lifting his shoulder.

He got a cortisone shot on Dec. 24 and was able to return on Jan. 12, but he acknowledged that surgery might still be necessary. By deciding to have surgery now, Irving's first season in Brooklyn ends after just 20 games.

Irving averaged 27.4 points, with a 50-point game on opening night and a 54-point performance against Chicago on Jan.

31. He played only one more game after that. Atkinson said Irving was even better than he expected after watching him play in Cleveland and Boston.

"I really love the player and feel like we had a really good relationship. We are in a really good place, but obviously you want more. More reps, more time with him," Atkinson said. "But we'll have time in the off-season to connect and work with him a little bit."

Irving missed the last five games before the break with a sprained right knee. He now joins Kevin Durant on the sideline; the super-



Brooklyn Nets guard Kyrie Irving lies on the court after he was injured during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Washington Wizards, Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020, in Washington.

Associated Press

stars signed with the Nets together in July. Durant has been out all season while recovering from surgery to repair his Achilles tendon. Brooklyn is still in good position to make the playoffs, coming out of the break in

seventh place in the Eastern Conference and five games ahead of ninth-place Washington. The Nets have received strong guard play from Spencer Dinwiddie and Caris LeVert. □

Can AI flag disease outbreaks faster than humans? Not quite

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Did an artificial-intelligence system beat human doctors in warning the world of a severe coronavirus outbreak in China?

In a narrow sense, yes. But what the humans lacked in sheer speed, they more than made up in finesse. Early warnings of disease outbreaks can help people and governments save lives. In the final days of 2019, an AI system in Boston sent out the first global alert about a new viral outbreak in China. But it took human intelligence to recognize



In this Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020 photo, John Brownstein, right, co-founder of HealthMap, a system using artificial intelligence to monitor global disease outbreaks, speaks on a phone in a HealthMap work area at Boston Children's Hospital in Boston.

Associated Press

outbreaks rely on natural language processing, the same branch of artificial intelligence that helps answer questions posed to a search engine or digital voice assistant.

But the algorithms can only be as effective as the data they are scouring, said Nita Madhav, CEO of San Francisco-based disease monitoring firm Metabiota, which first notified its clients about the outbreak in early January.

Madhav said that inconsistency in how different agencies report medical data can stymie algorithms. The text-scanning programs extract keywords from online text, but may fumble when organizations variously report new virus cases, cumulative virus cases, or new cases in a given time interval. The potential for confusion means there's almost always still a person involved in reviewing the data.

"There's still a bit of human in the loop," Madhav said. Andrew Beam, a Harvard University epidemiologist, said that scanning online reports for key words can help reveal trends, but the accuracy depends on the quality of the data. He also notes that these techniques aren't so novel.

"There is an art to intelligently scraping web sites," Beam said. "But it's also Google's core technology since the 1990s."

Google itself started its own Flu Trends service to detect outbreaks in 2008 by looking for patterns in search queries about flu symptoms. Experts criticized it for overestimating flu prevalence. Google shut down the website in 2015 and handed its technology to nonprofit organizations such as HealthMap to use Google data to build their own models.

Google is now working with Brownstein's team on a similar web-based approach for tracking the geographical spread of tick-borne Lyme disease.

Scientists are also using big data to model possible routes of early disease transmission. □

the significance of the outbreak and then awaken response from the public health community.

What's more, the mere mortals produced a similar alert only a half-hour behind the AI systems.

For now, AI-powered disease-alert systems can still resemble car alarms — easily triggered and sometimes ignored. A network of medical experts and sleuths must still do the hard work of sifting through rumors to piece together the fuller picture. It's difficult to say what future AI systems, powered by ever larger datasets on outbreaks, may be able to accomplish.

The first public alert outside China about the novel coronavirus came on Dec. 30 from the automated HealthMap system at Boston Children's Hospital. At 11:12 p.m. local time, HealthMap sent an alert about unidentified pneumonia cases in the Chinese city of Wuhan. The system, which scans online news and social media reports, ranked the alert's seriousness as only 3 out of 5. It took days for HealthMap researchers to recognize its importance.

Four hours before the HealthMap notice, New York epidemiologist Marjorie Pollack had already started working on her own

public alert, spurred by a growing sense of dread after reading a personal email she received that evening.

"This is being passed around the internet here," wrote her contact, who linked to a post on the Chinese social media forum Pincong. The post discussed a Wuhan health agency notice and read in part: "Unexplained pneumonia???"

Pollack, deputy editor of the volunteer-led Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases, known as ProMed, quickly mobilized a team to look into it. ProMed's more detailed report went out about 30 minutes after the terse HealthMap alert.

Early warning systems that scan social media, online news articles and government reports for signs of infectious disease outbreaks help inform global agencies such as the World Health Organization — giving international experts a head start when local bureaucratic hurdles and language barriers might otherwise get in the way.

Some systems, including ProMed, rely on human expertise. Others are partly or completely automated. And rather than competing with one another, they are often complementary — HealthMap is intertwined with ProMed and helps run

its online infrastructure.

"These tools can help hold feet to the fire for government agencies," said John Brownstein, who runs the HealthMap system as chief innovation officer at Boston Children's Hospital. "It forces people to be more open."

The last 48 hours of 2019 were a critical time for understanding the new virus and its significance. Earlier on Dec. 30, Wuhan Central Hospital doctor Li Wenliang warned his former classmates about the virus in a social media group — a move that led local authorities to summon him for questioning several hours later.

Li, who died Feb. 7 after contracting the virus, told The New York Times that it would have been better if officials had disclosed information about the epidemic earlier. "There should be more openness and transparency," he said.

ProMed reports are often incorporated into other outbreak warning systems, including those run by the World Health Organization, the Canadian government and the Toronto startup BlueDot. WHO also pools data from HealthMap and other sources.

Computer systems that scan online reports for information about disease

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Report: Work to reduce wildfire risks has economic benefits

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) —

Projects to reduce the risk of wildfires and protect water sources in the U.S. West have created jobs and infused more money in local economies, researchers say, and they were funded by a partnership between governments and businesses that has become a model in other countries.

A team from the U.S. Geological Survey reviewed work being done in several counties along the New Mexico-Colorado border that make up the watershed of one of North America's longest rivers, the Rio Grande.

The review shows how public-private partnerships could become a critical component for safeguarding the land and benefiting the economy amid the threat of federal funding cuts and worsening wildfires brought on by climate change.

The study focused on 2018, when the partnership, called the Rio Grande Water Fund, doled out \$855,000 to contractors in the region. The spending supported an estimated 22 jobs, ranging from forest thinning to research, environmental consulting and fence removal. That translated to more than \$1 million in labor income and \$1.9 million in benefits for the regional economy.

Spending in the area supported an estimated 15 jobs and more than \$1.1 million in economic output for the 13 counties in the Rio Grande's upper watershed, according to the findings. In all, The Nature Conservancy, which launched the



In this June 11, 2018, file photo, flames consume trees during a burnout operation that was performed south of County Road 202 near Durango, Colo.

Associated Press

partnership, estimates the work has had an economic impact of about \$18 million within five years.

"We've always known the water fund created jobs to get the work done. Now, we know the true economic impact," said Steve Bassett, head of planning and data analysis for the advocacy group.

The organization and others have been pushing for land managers to consider more landscape-level restoration work as a hedge against climate change. In New Mexico, Colorado and other parts of the American West, officials persistently warn that hotter, drier conditions are ingredients for more intense fires and those types of blazes can cause more harm by damaging the soil and clogging watersheds with ash, sedi-

ment and debris.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management announced last week its plans to build and maintain up to 11,000 miles (17,703 kilometers) of strategically placed fuel breaks across several Western states to control wildfires across nearly 350,000 square miles (906,500 square kilometers).

The work will involve manual, mechanical and chemical treatments, including prescribed fire and targeted grazing. It comes after the agency set a record last year for the number of

square miles — 1,322 (3,424 square kilometers) — treated to reduce the risk of wildfire.

The U.S. Forest Service also has been playing catch-up, but that could become more challenging as the Trump administration's proposed budget for the next fiscal year calls for cutting funding for some research and zeroing out spending for certain forest restoration initiatives.

That could mean partnerships like the Rio Grande Water Fund will become more prevalent. Officials at

The Nature Conservancy say it's serving as a model for other communities in the U.S. West and some in India and South Africa.

The advocacy group started the initiative in 2014 to restore large swaths of land as a way to protect and bolster the region's dwindling water resources.

More than 80 local, state and tribal partners have signed on since then, bringing in \$5 million in private investments and leveraging nearly \$50 million in public funding. More than 219 square miles (566 square kilometers) have been treated with thinning, prescribed burns and managed natural fires and an additional 515 square miles (1,335 square kilometers) are in the planning pipeline.

The investors in New Mexico range from municipal water utilities and federal agencies to banks and breweries.

Brent Racher, owner of Restoration Solutions LLC said his four-man team has gotten consistent work through the projects financed by the Rio Grande Water Fund. His company is based in a small community near the edge of the Cibola National Forest in central New Mexico.

"I've been able to invest in more equipment and plan for the future," he said. "Employee stability trickles down to the social fabric of our community." □

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Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

1	3	2						9			
					7					2	
			6	9					5		3
	6								9		
		8									
		4							2		
2					5	8					
7				1							4
	1								8	5	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

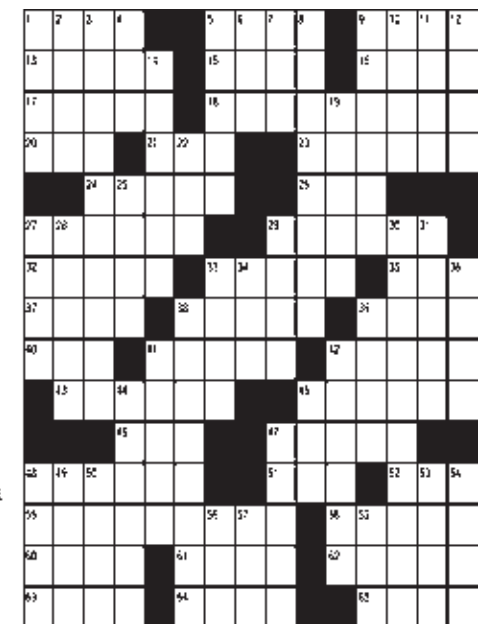
2/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	6	3	9	1	2	7	8	5
2	1	8	7	4	5	9	6	3
9	7	5	3	6	8	2	1	4
5	2	6	4	8	1	3	9	7
8	3	7	2	9	6	4	5	1
1	4	9	5	3	7	6	2	8
7	5	1	6	2	3	8	4	9
6	8	4	1	7	9	5	3	2
3	9	2	8	5	4	1	7	6

- ACROSS**
- Now and sometimes
 - Get ready for sport
 - Celebrity
 - Better's delight
 - Laugh loudly
 - Tramp
 - Indignant
 - Tentacle
 - Antonio TX
 - Is able to
 - soon in just a bit
 - trauma fracture
 - Owls
 - Orange-and-black bird
 - rain sewer alternative
 - Neighbor of India
 - Squeeze
 - insane
 - Actor Everett
 - Very high
 - Agile
 - Consume
 - Sliding oval
 - mate
 - In back of
 - Zoomed skyward
 - Encyclopaedia volume perhaps
 - Stammers
 - Breeze out
 - hang-
 - emotional issues
 - Switch position
 - Walked across
 - Es with a club
 - Give a hoot
 - Cesar Rapids state
 - Passed out cards
 - Choir selection
 - Peepers
 - market swap meet
- DOWN**
- Land is Your Land
 - Bat mullah
 - Set free
 - Ping-Pong table divider
 - Practical joke
 - Deteriorate
 - In one and out the other
 - Foretold the future
 - Most cashful
 - Tap the horn
 - Share a border with
 - Like pinkish cheeks
 - Remember
 - Casino game
 - Highest heart
 - Rocky Joe
 - In Love with Amy
 - Pace to go to recover
 - up arranges
 - Cold and businesslike
 - Sold
 - Fishing spot
 - One of JFK's brothers
 - Recolored
 - Victoria's Secret inventory
 - of approval official consent
 - Soldier's gun
 - Self-confident
 - In hog very happy
 - Tree secretor
 - Most famous betrayer
 - Cave in glass
 - Radio-logist's negative
 - Injure
 - Plank's partner in phrase
 - Crumbly cheese
 - sauce, chop suey ingredient
 - Hart's maze
 - NFL official



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

2/21/20

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

B	A	S	C	A	M	E	I	B	A	S	H
O	W	L	S	I	S	A	A	C	I	C	K
B	L	I	P	D	O	N	D	E	S	H	I
S	P	I	N	E	L	E	S	S	H	Y	D
N	E	R	D	T	W	O					
A	S	S	E	T	S	N	O	O	P	E	R
M	I	N	T	S	C	H	O	R	E	A	A
A	G	E	S	F	O	R	U	M	T	G	I
S	H	E	B	I	D	E	N	F	A	L	S
S	T	R	A	I	N	E	D	C	A	R	E
F	B	I									
S	C	A	R								
T	O	R	E								
A	C	T	S								
G	A	S	H								

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1 BR WK 11
building 7 on the 3rd floor
33 weeks remain \$15 K
Divi Link Golf
1 BR Wk 6 \$8K Birdie 1
19 weeks remain
Studio wk 7/8
Birdie 5 \$7,5 K each
27/29 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf
1 BR WK 8/9
Eagle 9 \$9,5K each
with 27/19 weeks remain
Divi Links Golf
1 BR WK #11
Birdie 3 \$9 K
26 weeks remain
1 BR wk 12/13
ground Floor
With 33/34 weeks remain
Birdie 10 \$9,5 K each
Divi Village
Studio wk 6 \$ 7,5 K
Building F
21 weeks remain

Dutch Village
1 BR WK 7/8 \$9 K each
15 weeks remain each
2 BR WK 7 \$18 K
25 weeks remain

Dutch Village
1 BR WK 9
16 weeks remain
1 BR WK 8 \$8 K
12 weeks remain
1 BR WK 7/8 \$7 K
12/24 weeks remain

Eagle Resorts
1 BR WK 5,6,7,8
Ground Floor \$6,5 K each
1 BR wk 7/8/9 \$6,5 K each
Caribbean Palm Village
1 BR wk 3/4 \$6 K
2 BR WK 5/6 \$ 7 K each
Le Vent Condo
3 BR , 2 Bath \$650 K

Barcelo Resort
2 BR wk 7 \$40K
1 BR wk 8 \$15K
Divi Phoenix
2 BR PH wk 11 and 12
building 9 on the 7 th floor
30 weeks remain 35 K each

Divi Village \$ 7 K
1 BR WK # 14
ground floor building C
16 weeks remain

Renaissance Suites
1 BR WK # 9 \$ 9 K
4th floor harbor view
Divi Village
2 BR Wk 13 \$13K
3 rd floor building
27 weeks remain

Renaissance Suites
1 BR WK # 10/11
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Students push universities to stop investing in fossil fuels

By **MICHAEL MELIA**

Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)

— Students alarmed by climate change are stepping up pressure on universities to pull investments from fossil fuel industries, an effort that is gaining traction at prestigious schools like Georgetown, Harvard and Yale.

The push that is underway at hundreds of schools began nearly a decade ago, and student activists increasingly have learned from one another's tactics and moved to act amid worsening predictions about the effects of climate change on the planet.

Georgetown University's board of directors announced this month that it will end private investments in coal, oil and gas companies within the next decade, and some faculty at Harvard have called for a similar shift. There were sit-ins and demonstrations last week at dozens of schools, including Gonzaga University, the University of Wisconsin, University of Pittsburgh and Cornell University.

Several dozen schools have stopped investing at least partially in fossil fuels, but there is debate over how much the move slows the effects of climate change or affects the bottom line of companies like Chevron and Exxon Mobil.

Many schools have defended their investments, citing a duty to preserve and grow the income they receive from donations, while touting efforts to use investments as leverage to engage energy companies, find solutions for climate change through research and make campuses carbon neutral by not



In this Nov. 23, 2019, file photo, Harvard and Yale students protest during halftime of the NCAA college football game between Harvard and Yale at the Yale Bowl in New Haven, Conn.

Associated Press

causing any net increases in heat-trapping carbon dioxide.

For student activists, it's about taking a moral and political stand.

At Yale University, which has a \$30.3 billion endowment, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Senate on Thursday will discuss the university's ethical obligations regarding fossil fuel investments. It became a big issue partly due to a widely covered student protest that disrupted a November football game between Harvard and Yale.

"Yale has to take it seriously. We forced them to take it seriously. The faculty discussions are evidence of that," said Ben Levin, a student leader with the Yale Endowment Justice Coalition. "They're also evidence of the fact that the faculty are incredibly concerned because they don't want to be working for a university that's on the wrong side of the most pressing issue of

our time."

Yale says it has supported shareholder resolutions calling for companies to reveal what they're doing to address climate change and asked endowment managers not to invest in companies that fail to take steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but student activists want a clean break. The campus actions are part of a broader push for insurers, pension funds and governments worldwide to end fossil fuel investments. Environmentalist and author Bill McKibben, a leader of the movement to stop such investments, said students have played a huge role.

"They've kept it up through two generations of undergraduates. Administrators hoped they'd graduate and that would be the end of the pressure, but instead it keeps building," said McKibben, a scholar in residence at Middlebury College, which announced last year it would divest its \$1.1 billion endowment from fossil fuels.

Student government leaders from the Big Ten Conference called last month for their 14 schools to begin divesting from fossil fuels, passing a resolution that cited the conclusion of the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

that greenhouse gas emissions are driving climate change.

A challenge for institutions is the prevalence of investments in index funds, which makes it difficult to separate out the roughly 4 percent of energy stocks in such funds, said John Jurewitz, a lecturer in economics at Pomona College. Colleges pulling their investments also wouldn't likely hurt oil companies, which have their own internal cash flows, he said.

"It's mainly a political statement about what the university is willing to invest in," Jurewitz said. "It may be a worthwhile statement if you believe it will help get the ball rolling toward getting some realistic, meaningful policy like a carbon tax or cap and trade, something that will put a price on the carbon in some practical way."

The Independent Petroleum Association of America has pushed back with its own campaign, arguing divestment would cost university endowments millions a year with little impact on carbon emissions.

At Harvard, which has a \$40.9 billion endowment, President Lawrence Bacow said he would take a faculty motion to the Harvard Corporation, the university's executive board. In the

past, administrators have outlined steps Harvard is taking to address climate change while arguing that ending fossil fuel investments wouldn't have a big effect and that it makes little sense to sever ties with energy companies that heat and light the campus. Connor Chung, a first-year student and organizer for Fossil Fuel Divest Harvard, said the group hopes the university will reconsider.

"At the end of the day, our goal is environmental justice," he said. "Divestment is our tactic for getting there, but it's not going to work unless we have a broader movement around the country and around the world of students demanding that their institutions end their complicity in the climate crisis."

A group of Harvard students also want to stop investments in prisons and companies that contract with them. They sued Wednesday, arguing the school is violating state law by investing in an industry they describe as "present-day slavery." Harvard officials didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment on the lawsuit.

At George Washington University, sophomore Izy Carney said a student campaign has taken inspiration from the activism of students elsewhere, including in the University of California system, which announced a plan to end fossil fuel investments in 2019.

After hearing from student activists, George Washington's board of trustees announced a task force this month on managing environmental responsibility. But it did not mention divestment as a possibility. Carney, a member of Sunrise GW, a student group dedicated to fighting climate change, said they would keep up the pressure.

"Right now, it sounds like profits is what our university is after," Carney said. "We just want to make sure our school is doing everything it can to make sure it is not contributing to the climate crisis." □



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Bestselling young adult authors are aiming at older readers

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After gaining millions of young readers for her "Divergent" fantasy series, Veronica Roth decided she and her characters were ready for the next phase — a novel for adults.

"I grew up on stories like 'Dune' and 'Harry Potter,' and 'Ender's Game' about people who shoulder burdens when they're too young to bear them," says Roth, who tells the story of Sloane Andrews and her fellow fighters against the havoc of the Dark One in "Chosen Ones," scheduled for April. "So the question of what comes after those stories just kept nagging me. 'Chosen Ones' is about that 'after' — about a group of 30-somethings who saved the world when they were younger, and they're still dealing with the repercussions of it."

Roth, Tochi Onyebuchi and Sarah J. Maas are among several writers popular with young people who have books out this year intended for older readers. Some have never written for adults, while others move freely among teens and older readers. All are navigating one of the more complicated paths in publishing — how to consciously appeal to different audiences for different books, from the use or absence of profanity to the choice of subject matter and how to present it. The history is mixed: Judy Blume and Neil Gaiman are among those who have succeeded well, while others, including Daniel Handler and Stephanie Meyer, never fully caught on with adults.

Roth's first "Divergent" book came out in 2011, and she reasons that enough of her original readers have reached an age that they'll be open to a mature approach. She considers her new work a "pretty natural" moment in her career, when you "get curious about other genres, other types of writing."

Onyebuchi had published "Beasts Made of Night" and "Crown of Thunder" before



In this undated photo provided by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, author Veronica Roth poses for a portrait.

Associated Press

completing his first book for adults, "Riot Baby." It is set in part around the 1992 Los Angeles riots following the acquittal of policemen who beat Rodney King. "Riot Baby" is a dystopian fantasy about Kev, who has been jailed in Rikers Island, and his sister Ella, who holds the power and the horror of seeing the future.

A graduate of Yale University and Columbia Law School, among other schools, Onyebuchi has worked in private and government law and thought a long time about a book that could draw upon his education and background. He considers adult books his first passion, but he found that writing for

young people strengthened his storytelling, forcing him to write clearly and not "to obfuscate." For "Riot Baby," he was able to expand upon that discipline. "I could be straightforward and short and concise, and I could have a lyrical style that abounded in subjunctive clauses," he said. "I didn't just have to be Hemingway. I didn't just have to be Faulkner. I could be both."

Maas, whose bestsellers for young people include the "Throne of Glass" fantasy series, has her debut adult book out in March. Her "Crescent City" series begins with "House of Earth and Blood," in which protagonist Bryce Quinlan —

with the help of a fallen angel — seeks to track down the killers of her closest friends.

Maas told the AP that the new series had been a secret "passion project" for years, an idea came to her when she was on a plane during a book tour, listening to the soundtrack from "Gravity." The "epic scene" that came to her became the ending of "House of Earth and Blood." Bryce's age compelled Maas to think about a different readership.

"The moment Bryce Quinlan walked into my head, I knew she was in her early to mid-20s — an age that placed her story firmly in the adult range," says Maas,

adding that the main difference between writing for younger and older people is in the language. "I will admit that I can now get away with quite a bit more swearing!"

V.E. Schwab, who writes adult and young adult novels, says she doesn't change her style or vocabulary: The difference is in her mindset. For her "Monsters of Verity" duology, she inhabits her 17-year-old self, a "pretty angry teenager." For "The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue," an adult story coming in October about a woman who endures and is forgotten for centuries, she is closer to the person she is now.

"One of the primary themes in the book is this concept of 30 as a threshold for true adulthood, the feeling like you look down for a moment, and when you look back up, everyone else has raced ahead, and you're still trying to get your bearings," she said. "I wrote it essentially for a version of myself who never found writing. If I hadn't become an author, these are the questions I'd be facing, this is how lost I would feel."

Over the past decade, Christina Hobbs and Lauren Billings have combined to write best-selling adult and young adult novels under the name "Christina Lauren." They started out with romance books, among them such very adult stories as "Beautiful Bombshell," "Wicked Sexy Liar" and the upcoming "The Honey-Don't List." Meanwhile, for young adult novels such as "Autoboyography" and "The House," they adapt the themes of love and desire for a more impressionable and sensitive audience.

"We want to give our adult readers a literal escape, like when they turn on a Netflix show," Billings says. "When we are writing of teens, we are trying to be entertaining, yes, but we also want to be more careful that they feel seen and understood. You want to make sure you're writing a story for them and that it doesn't feel like a grownup talking down to them." □

Review: A CGI canine yearns to be free in 'Call of the Wild'



This undated image provided by 20th Century Fox shows actor Harrison Ford as John Thornton from the film "Call of the Wild." Associated Press

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

Does the dog movie have any new tricks? Do we

want it to?

For the most part, we want our dog movies like our pooches: comforting, obedient and slightly slobbery. "The Call of the Wild," the latest adaptation of Jack London's 1903 novel, is all those things but adds a new twist. Its canine is computer generated.

Whether that's an improvement or not depends on how you prefer your animals, digital or more down-to-earth. Previous adaptations of "The Call of the Wild," going all the way back to 1923, were usually done with real dogs, including the 1935 version with Clark Gable and a 1972 film with Charlton Heston.

But movies, like sled dogs, run in packs. This "Call of the Wild," which co-stars Harrison Ford, follows a string of movies that have tried, and mostly failed, to herd the animal kingdom into the realm of CGI, including "The Lion King" and "Dolittle." And yet they've still been upstaged by the genuine article. If we're giving out best in show, the paws-down choice of late has been Brad Pitt's pit bull in "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood."

It's not that Buck, the St. Bernard-Collie mix of "The Call of the Wild," isn't a good boy. He's a towering, fluffy guy who will almost, but not quite, fool you into thinking he's real. He was created partially through a mo-

tion capture performance by Terry Notary, who was memorably ape-like in the dinner scene of Ruben Ostlund's "The Square." The more compelling, albeit unsettling version of "The Call of the Wild" may be seeing it with Notary's Buck, sans digital effects.

The movie, directed by Chris Sanders ("How to Train Your Dragon," "Lilo & Stitch") and penned by Michael Green, takes the basic shape of London's adventure while boosting the adrenaline whenever possible. There are added scenes like an underwater rescue and an avalanche. But it similarly sketches the Pacific Northwest odyssey of Buck, whose sunny days in California end when he's kidnapped and shipped north to fetch a price from the teaming miners of the 1890s Klondike Gold Rush in the Yukon. Buck falls in first with a cheerful mailman named Perrault (Omar Sy), who teaches him to be a sled dog.

There are worse owners, too, including a posh, abusive fortune-seeker (Dan Stevens). But Buck also repeatedly encounters a bearded woodsman named John Thornton (Ford) who's both our narrator and Buck's eventual master. So smart a dog is he that he even noses away the bottles of the heavy-drinking Thornton, like some animal dreamed up by AA and the ASPCA.

Buck's destiny remains easy to root for. And Ford, looking happier to be on screen than he has in some time, adds considerably to the movie's charm. The whole thing, with Steven Spielberg's regular cinematographer Janusz Kaminski handling photography, has a warm polish. But it's also thoroughly ironic to make a movie about the gravitational pull of the wilderness with so much help from computers. There is little here, amid the high-tech photorealistic animations, that would satisfy London's concept of "wild."

"The Call of the Wild" is the first film released under the newly renamed Twentieth Century Pictures, the studio formerly Twentieth Century Fox and since acquired by the Walt Disney Co. It's a name and logo that can look a little neutered, even if "The Call of the Wild" may seem like it had Disney DNA from the start. But Disney has its own formidable new sled dog movie, too, in "Togo" (starring a real dog), which recently debuted on its streaming service. All of which is to say that today's movie landscape is, as ever, a dog eat dog world. "The Call of the Wild," a Twentieth Century Pictures release, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association of America for some violence, peril, thematic elements and mild language. Running time: 100 minutes. Two stars out of four. □

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PBP MON-FRI 4:10 | 6:40 | 9:10

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SAT-SUN 1:30 | 4:05 | 6:40 | 9:15

EMMA.

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SAT-SUN 3:20 | 6:00

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Jennifer Lawrence to star in Adam McKay comedy for Netflix

Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Jennifer Lawrence will star in the Adam McKay comedy "Don't Look Up" for Netflix. The streaming giant on Wednesday announced that it acquired the the project. McKay, who wrote the script, will direct the film about two low-level astronomers who go on a media tour to warn of an approaching asteroid heading for Earth. Lawrence has been little seen on the big screen late-

ly, most recently co-starring in last year's "X-Men: Dark Phoenix." The 29-year-old actress took a roughly two-year hiatus from acting but has recently returned to work. She recently wrapped production on an untitled film for A24 directed by Lila Neugebauer. "I'm so thrilled to make this movie with Jen Lawrence," McKay said in a statement. "She's what folks in the 17th century used to call 'a dynamite act.'" And the fact that Netflix

sees this movie as a worldwide comedy sets the bar high for me and my team in an exciting and motivating way." McKay's most recently movie was 2018's Oscar-nominated "Vice," starring Christian Bale as Dick Cheney. "Adam has always had great timing when it comes to making smart, relevant and irreverent films that depict our culture," said Scott Stuber, head of film at Netflix. □

Actress Zoe Caldwell, Tony winner for 'Medea,' dies at 86

By MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Zoe Caldwell, a four-time Tony Award winner who brought humanity to larger-than-life characters, whether it be the dotty schoolteacher Miss Jean Brodie, an aging opera star Maria Callas or the betrayed, murderous Medea, has died. She was 86.

Her son Charlie Whitehead said Caldwell died peacefully Sunday at her home in Pound Ridge, New York. Whitehead said her death was due to complications from Parkinson's disease.

The Australian-born actress played in regional theaters around the English-speaking world before becoming the toast of Broadway in 1968, and winning her second Tony, for "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie."

Among her other characters were Cleopatra, Saint Joan, Mother Courage and authors Colette and Lillian Hellman. As she matured, she accepted only roles that offer a particular challenge. If she thought, "Oh, I can do that," she didn't want to do them, she said in 1986.

Three of her four Tonys came in collaborations with her husband, Robert Whitehead, who was one of Broadway's most prolific producers of serious drama.

She cited his influence in her decision to do "Medea," the ancient Greek drama of a woman who is betrayed by her lover and kills their children in revenge. It won her a third Tony in 1982.

"Medea wasn't a character I believed in until my Robert started to talk to me about her in human terms," she told The New York Times a few days after the Tony ceremony. "I suddenly understood how a creative force of nature can become destructive if it is mucked up, polluted, depurified — like the atom."

Times critic Frank Rich cited the flashes of sensuality — which she said derived from the study of Greek painting and sculpture — and wit that she brought to the character.



In this June 2, 1996, file photo, Zoe Caldwell holds her award for Leading Actress in a Play for her role in "Master Class" at the 50th Annual Tony Awards in New York.

Associated Press

"When, at last, the crime is at hand, the actress fully dramatizes the struggle between her hunger for revenge and her love of her sons," Rich wrote. "Like the gods, we can understand, if not pardon, the primal impulse that drives her to the ultimate act of annihilation."

Terrence McNally's "Master Class," which debuted on Broadway in 1995, was another joint effort with Whitehead. It won Caldwell her fourth Tony and brought Whitehead, as producer, the Tony for best play.

She played Callas as the opera superstar critiques, cajoles and inspires a trio of budding singers taking part in the uniquely intense musical education session called a master class.

"A performance is a struggle. You have to win," she says as Callas.

Then-Associated Press drama critic Michael Kuchwara called Caldwell "incandescent" and said she gave "the performance of her career."

Already well-known to those who followed region-

al theater, she had made her Broadway debut in "The Devils" in late 1965, temporarily replacing for Anne Bancroft, who injured her back.

Caldwell was quickly announced for a role as a society columnist in "Slapstick Tragedy," Tennessee Williams' pair of one-act plays. The production lasted less than a week on Broadway in February 1966 — but it brought Caldwell her first Tony, for best featured actress.

Broadway stardom arrived two years later for "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie." The story of an eccentric Scottish schoolteacher with pro-fascist tendencies originated as a novel by Muriel Spark.

The role had already been successful for Vanessa Redgrave in London and would eventually win an Oscar for Maggie Smith.

The Washington Post, noting others had played the role, said that "so masterfully exact is Miss Caldwell that watching her you will probably feel that hers is the only way (to play it). ...

Almost at the instant we first see Miss Brodie, the actress has found a perfect mannerism."

The New York Times said Caldwell "flounces onto the stage like a sparrow with illusions of grandeur."

She and producer Whitehead married later that year. She told writer Rex Reed that far from pushing her into the Brodie role, Whitehead "wasn't keen on me for the part" until the playwright, Jay Presson Allen, campaigned for her.

Caldwell added Broadway directing to her resume starting in 1977 with a comedy, "An Almost Perfect Person," starring Colleen Dewhurst. In 1991, she directed Jason Robards and Judith Ivey in "Park Your Car in Harvard Yard." She was last on Broadway in 2003 as the Mystery Guest Star in "The Play What I Wrote." She also lent her voice to the "Lilo & Stitch" cartoons and appeared in the 2011 film "Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close."

She spent much of her early career on the road. After touring in a wide vari-

ety of plays in Australia, she came to England and got to tackle a succession of Shakespearean roles.

"I was always afraid of growing comfortable, so I would jump from job to job, whatever I was offered," she told The Associated Press in 1986. "I would go from Stratford-on-Avon to a small repertory company and back to London."

She traveled to Canada for parts at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. In the United States, she did regional theater work at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis and the Goodman Theater in Chicago.

At that time, she said she didn't turn down any job.

"It was a heck of a long apprenticeship, but I would recommend it to any actress," she told The New York Times in 1968.

Caldwell was born in 1933 in Melbourne, Australia, to a family struggling to make it through the Depression. In her memoir, "I Will Be Cleopatra," she wrote that she knew at an early age that her job would be "keeping audiences awake and in their seats."

"I knew this because it was the only thing I could do," she wrote. Despite the family's tight budget, the Caldells were regular theater-goers, she wrote, and "I saw every singer, dancer, actor, or vaudevillian who came to Melbourne."

She made her stage debut at age 9 in a Melbourne production of "Peter Pan." Her husband died in 2002 at age 86, shortly after he had received a special Tony Award for his nearly 60-year career. Among his other honors were a best play Tony for "A Man for All Seasons" in 1962 and a best revival Tony for "Death of a Salesman" in 1984.

She and Whitehead had two sons, Sam and Charlie. In addition to her two sons, she is survived by two grandchildren.

"I always knew I would be an actor. I am an actor," she told the AP in 1986. "But being a wife and a mother still seems to me to be some kind of extraordinary stuff." □

Egypt's once-reviled street dogs get chance at a better life

By ISABEL DEBRE

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Karim Hegazi spends his days in a Cairo clinic taking care of animals long considered a menace in Egypt.

Stray dogs roam in almost every Cairo neighborhood — lurking in construction sites, scavenging through trash and howling nightly atop parked cars. The government says there's around 15 million of them. They bite some 200,000 people a year, according to the World Health Organization, and spread rabies, one of the world's most lethal diseases.

And if that wasn't reason enough to feel revulsion toward dogs, a famous Islamic saying attributed to the Prophet Muhammad warns that angels won't enter your home if there's a dog inside.

Yet after centuries of stigma, the street dogs of Egypt are finding popular acceptance, and along with it, surging grassroots support. That includes adoption and medical care, as well as spaying and neutering to keep them from producing more puppies on the streets. Volunteers armed with giant fishing nets and tranquilizer darts embark on regular missions to catch, vaccinate and sterilize dogs before letting them loose.

These efforts are making inroads against the prevailing government policy of extermination by poison. "I've seen a major shift ... people are seeing a value in strays," said Hegazi, 32, from his veterinary hospital in the upscale suburb of Maadi. He says he's no longer treating just foreign pooches, but also a growing number of adopted "baladi" dogs, the once-reviled Egyptian street breed. Even pious Muslim clients are taking in street dogs. Hegazi says they often reconcile their religious beliefs and love of dogs by keeping them in grassy yards or on rooftops.

Egypt's upper and middle classes have increasingly adopted Western-inspired ideas of dog ownership. Pet



In this Feb. 14, 2020 photo, Egyptian Vets for Animal Care, the country's first spay and neuter program, mark a puppy with red paint after giving it a rabies shot, in Cairo, Egypt.

Associated Press

hotels, cafes and grooming emporiums are sprouting up in major Egyptian cities. Fueled by the rise of social media, enthusiasm for Cairo's dogs is "moving beyond snob culture," said local advocate Amina Abaza.

A Facebook forum for vet recommendations exploded into a community of 13,000 pet lovers trading stray rescue stories. Dozens of new shelters coordinate adoptions online, flooding Instagram feeds with images of abandoned puppies. What has surfaced online is spilling into the streets. Some of Cairo's more well-to-do districts are mobilizing spay and neuter teams to counter what advocates describe as gruesome government methods to control the dog population.

The General Organization for Veterinary Services, an arm of the agricultural ministry, routinely sends authorities to kill strays by scattering poison in streets overnight, according to a dozen activists and residents. They say they've woken up to find carcasses piled on curbs, or sick dogs wailing in distress.

"It's a horrible way to die," said Mohamed Shehata, founder of Egyptian Vets

for Animal Care, or EVAC. It's the country's first spay and neuter program, also based in Maadi.

The government organization did not respond to questions about its policy. But in a recent report, it described street dogs as a "time bomb that threatens our children," and defended the "merciful killing of dogs that are harmful to people," citing Islamic law. After the French invaded Egypt in 1797, Napoleon Bonaparte's troops spent two nights shooting all of Cairo's street dogs because of their raucous noise. According to American historian Juan Cole, they were likely employed as informal watchdogs in the city's winding alleys. Major dog eradication campaigns in Egypt stemmed from the city's explosive growth in the early 1800s, when dogs became scavengers dependent on Cairo's ubiquitous mounds of garbage, said Alan Mikhail, professor of Ottoman history at Yale University. As part of a public hygiene push, authorities trapped, shot and poisoned dogs en masse.

These days, a consensus is emerging among experts that "poison is not a real

solution to rabies or to overpopulation," said Shehata. A toxic substance called citrinin is used to kill off dogs, but most of it ends up seeping into soil and cement, poisoning gardeners, garbage workers and children playing in the street. Culling street dogs doesn't stop the spread of disease either, he added, as over 70% of the stray population must be vaccinated to attain herd immunity.

Shehata described his group's spaying and neutering efforts as "a more humane, scientific, and effective way," to regulate the country's strays. His group kicked off Egypt's first mass rabies vaccination drive this month, inspired by the WHO's goal to eliminate human deaths from dog-transmitted rabies by 2030. On a misty morning last weekend, teams of volunteers scampered after the wild dogs in Maadi, bolting down wide boulevards and trash-littered train tracks. A cacophony of yelps and barks filled the air as terrified dogs were trapped in nets, then injected with vaccines. Neighbors woken by the noise watched from their balconies in bewilderment. The method

may appear ruthless, but Shehata insists it's for the best, and keeps the dogs rabies-immune for a year.

Volunteers also spay and neuter strays at the clinic. The dogs are dropped off where they were caught, with a notch cut in their ear to show they've been sterilized. The model is being replicated in at least five central Cairo districts, where local groups say they've seen dog populations stabilize or decline and the threat of rabies wane, although the government doesn't make rabies infection figures public. Vigilante hunters still scatter poison in dog food and request government exterminators, said Rasha Hussein, a Maadi resident who runs a vet training center outside Cairo. But she said efforts by groups like EVAC have encouraged compassion. Residents now coordinate meal deliveries and medical checks for ear-tagged dogs that have become a mainstay in their areas. Just five years ago, EVAC volunteers were chased out of the neighborhood.

Shehata says his teams have treated some 10,000 stray dogs over the last few years. Egypt's push follows successes in similar developing countries. Animal welfare proponents hope these gains can spark a worldwide movement.

Turkey's cities, which once promoted systematic slaughter of street dogs, now provide strays with government-sponsored medical evaluations, sterilization and shelter. Indian provinces historically ravaged by rabies, where Shehata trained, have driven down death rates through coordinated campaigns. But leading veterinarians say Egypt's efforts still lack state funding or a legal framework to protect animals, meaning the future of the country's street dogs remains uncertain.

"We will do our best to reach our targets," said Hegazi while carrying his next patient, barking and snorting, into the exam room. "But it'll take a much longer time." □